THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

REGISTERED No. 22.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY.

VOLUME XXV. NUMBER 4. | CALCUTTA:—MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1878. | Per Annum in Advance. TOWN.....11-8. MOFUSSIL.....13-4.

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 21ST JANUARY.

THE LUCKNOW TIMES publishes the decision of the Judicial Commissioner of Oudh in the Zenana Abduction Case, which we noticed last week. The Judicial Commissioner remarks:

"The lady herself has no horescope or other guide to her real age and the only apparent foundation for her statement that she is now 20 years is her assertion that her parents told her that she was married when she was 11 years old. This Court was asked to personally examine the widow's physique or cause her to be examined by some medical officer with a view to fix her probable age. This was declined. Either examination might be a source of pain to the family of a high caste Brahmin and, at the most, the opinion formed would be an opinion by persons but slightly acquainted personally with the class of woman to which Kheroda Soondari by her social status belongs, and could have no weight against the statement of the uncle, in whose house she was admittedly born and from whom she has, by her own shewing, received maintenance for the last three years, without any help from her husband's family. For the purposes of this matter before the Court, I find that Mussummat Kheroda Soondari Dabee is presumably a minor."

And the Judicial Commissioner accordingly appointed the grand-mother of the girl as her guardian. It is this impartial administration of the law, which raises the British Government in the estimation of the people. The Indians are peculiarly sensitive about their zenana, and when it is invaded they become almost desperate. They cannot but feel grateful to the Government which protects them from assaults on the zenana. While thanking the Judicial Commissioner of Oudh for his impartial decision in this case, we confess we cannot understand why he refused to award costs. The plaintiff was forced into the Court by the action of the defendants.

THE AKHUND OF SWAT is dead. He was a pillar of strength on the frontier. Although he was a fanatic, he was friendly to our Government. He had great influence over the frontier tribes and also over the Ameer of Cabul. His death in the present state of frontier politics is much to be regretted.

THE DEATH of the Akhoond of Swat is likely to be followed by a disputed succession. Two claimants it is said have already been busily forming parties for some time past. Mian Gul, the late Akhoond's son and Sher Dil Khan, Chief of the Ranazai, have both many supporters; and besides these there are other claimants. Ranazai is the most powerful of the Swat clans.

WE ARE sorry to record another death—that of the Maharani of Ticcari. She was a pious and benevolent lady. Only the other day she gave a munificent donation for the establishment of a Dispensary.

MR. GLADSTONE thus apologizes to Midhat Pasha:

"I think it my duty to treat as anonymous this accusation, of which the authorship cannot be completely traced. I also think it wrong for one who has taken the exceptional part in the Eastern Question that has fallen to my lot to circulate, even without adopting it, an anonymous accusation. Against such an accusation the person at whom it is aimed is at once entitled, so far as I am concerned, to the full benefit of his contradiction. I therefore apologise for the fault, into which I have been led by an erroneous construction, without hesitation and without reserve."

I shall do what in me lies to give this apology publicity, and I shall likewise transmit it to his Highness Midhat Pacha. At the same time, I must remark, that I still remain as his accuser upon the far more flagrant matters which form the subject of my "Leesons in Massacre," published nine months ago; and with which I have, in at least two passages, associated him by name. I should be glad to be placed in a position to withdraw or qualify any of those accusations. They are plain enough, and his Highness will find in them nothing of the cruel irony, or indirect means, of which he thinks that my citation from Mr. More has given him reason to complain.

We hope Midhat Pasha will take up this challenge.

WE ARE sorry to hear that the districts lately the scene of the famine in the Bombay Presidency are being scourged by fever. In Sholapore especially, the epidemic is stated to be very severe and very fatal. In Madras the mortality in the famine districts is very high. What can be the cause of this fever. Is it malaria?

MAN AND WOMAN IN AMERICA. At Boston recently one of the champions of the fair sex while inveighing against the brutality of mankind in general and we presume that of America in particular, said—'Who conducted the ten persecutions of the Christians, *Men*! *Who* sold his birthright for a mess of pottage?' A *man*! *Who* cheated his only brother? A *man*! Just then a melancholy looking man got up on a seat in the back of the hall, and squeaked out: 'Who coaxed Adam to do what he hadn't oughter! *Woman*! Who sells our Sunday clothes to pedlars for second-hand crockery ware? *Woman*! Who contributes our plug hats to the naked heathen? *Woman*! *Who* ruined Samson, and old King David—did man, eh?' But a charge of three hundred petticoats overwhelmed the meek-eyed man, and he was promptly hustled out.

TUESDAY, 22ND JANUARY.

ONCE MORE an attempt has been made to give the holy city of Benares a local organ. It is a weekly paper called the *Star*. May the *Star* shine with undiminished effulgence for many a year to come!

THE TEHERAN Correspondent of the *Standard* announces that the Shah of Persia has despatched a Special Envoy on a secret mission to the Russian Court seemingly with the object of arranging for the Shah's projected visit to Europe: in reality, it is hinted, in order to cement an alliance between Persia and Russia.

IT IS stated that the ladies of Constantinople commisserating the Sultan in the recent defeats of the Turkish Army offered to form a regiment of about 10,000 strong and to fight the Russians. The Sultan with his characteristic magnanimity replied that he would first sacrifice his life before he would allow his mothers and sisters to march on the field of battle. If the Russians have any gallantry in their composition, they ought to lay down their arms at the sight of the fair warriors.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Indian Tribune* has heard "from reliable sources that the notorious Mr. Fuller of Agra has again been fined for assaulting a native *Chaprassee* employed on the Jumna bridge in collecting taxes."

THE COLOGNE GAZETTE thus enumerates the Russian and Turkish losses in the present war. The Russian losses number 71,705 men, including 14 Generals, 1 Imperial prince, 4 princes of the house of Rurik, 1 Persian prince, 6 Russian princes, 16 Counts and 21 Barons. The Turkish prisoners number about 44,000 men: among them there are 16 pashas and 500 officers. There were also taken 701 guns, 200 standards, 2 monitors, and 4 steamers. The value of the booty in ammunition and provisions amounts to 14,000,000 roubles; 7,000 prisoners were taken at Ardahan, 300 at Begli Achmed, 500 at Zeidekan, 800 at Yagni, 300 at Bayazid, 7,000 at Aladja Dagh, 12,000 at Kais 3,500 at Devec Boyun, 500 at Aziz, 7,800 at Nicopolis, 500 in the combats of the Balkans, and 3,500 at Teliche.

THE PRINTING TIMES says that it has been computed that the number of newspapers published in Germany amounts to about two thousand three hundred and forty-four millions per annum. Of foreign newspapers there passed through the post, for distribution in Germany in one year (1875) some fourteen million copies.

ABOUT half the volumes printed in British India during the year 1875 were original works, namely 2,337 out of a total of 4,684 works; and of these three-fourths were printed in the vernacular languages of the various provinces.

WEDNESDAY, 23RD JANUARY.

A STATISTICAL abstract relating to British India presented to Parliament has just been issued. The area under British administration is 909,834 miles, with a population of 191,065,445. The Native States comprise 573,052 miles and a population of 48,283,978. Including the French and Portuguese possessions, the total area of all India is 1,484,150 square miles, with a population of 239,978,595. Of the 191,000,000 inhabitants of British India, the religious denominations are given as follows:—Hindus, 139,343,820; Sikhs, 1,174,436; Mahomedans, 40,867,125; Buddhists and Jains, 2,832,851: Christians 897,682; others, 5,417,304; and "religion not known," 532,227.

WE HAVE received the following letter from Mysore:

"Your remarks touching the retirement of Mr. P. Kristna Row, Deputy Commissioner in Mysore from public life and the non-appointment of a native as his successor, are very appropriate and welcome. The native cause in this Province however is not prospering, though the time for the restoration of the country to the young Maharaja is fast approaching. Ever since Mr. Bowring the ablest administrator that Mysore had the status of Natives has been raised their intrusion into the hallowed ranks of covenanted officers has been watched with extreme jealousy, and seldom an opportunity however, trivial has been omitted of villifying native character or damaging native prospects. A European is a personification of all virtues and a native a compendium of all the vices. The administrative success belongs entirely to the former and failure exclusively to the latter. The fact of the matter is that Mysore has always been looked upon as a refuge for European talents not likely to command a price in other markets. To test this you have only to transfer some of the officers serving here to some other Presidency and see them work and you will find very soon what stuff they are made of. It is a fortunate story for our administrators that their beautiful decisions and rulings in judicial matters are not published. If they were they would afford food for laughter and scorn for outsiders for many a day. One unmistakeable proof of the muddle which has been made of the administration is to be found in the fact that the state has been brought to the verge of bankruptcy, a nice contrast to native rule in other provinces. Is it not sad to think that the efforts of 45 years to ensure financial success have proved abortive and that matters have assumed much the same position in which they were when the British Government took over the administration? All sorts of schemes of reduction are being proposed but it will need a strong hand and strait supervision to do what is required, which at present we are not blessed with. Will the Government of India devote a little more attention to this poor Province than it usually does at this critical juncture and save the native from ruin?

HOW THE silk industry has declined in France will be perceived from the following statistics. In 1853, the crop of cocoons was about 26,000,000 kilogrammes according to some authorities and 21,000,000 according to others, equal to 2,166,000 or 1,750,000 kilogrammes of raw silk. In 1873, the crop was 8,240,000 kilogrammes of cocoons, equal to 550,000 kilogrammes of raw silk.

FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE of the Government of India the King of Siam has been freely distributing Orders to the members of his family. The Siamese Order is of three grades. *Apropos* of orders, it is said that the late King Victor Emmanuel distributed on an average, five decorations with titles daily. It has become a distinction in Italy to be un-distinguished. If our Government does not exercise due discrimination in the distribution of honors, India will fast drift into that condition.

MR. A. DE SCALA, Director of the Oriental Museum at Vienna, and Delegate of the Austrian Ministry of Commerce, has we see arrived at Lahore, and proposes to take with him a complete set of specimens of Lahore manufactures in silk, wool, shawl wool, &c., together with a description of the various processes of manufacture, average cost, &c. This means German competition with India.

WE READ that in a village called Khagoorda, situated in Nowanuggur, a white marble mine has been discovered from which five marble slabs six feet square have been dug.

MR. BETHAM, the Special Relief officer for the Tumkur Taluk in Mysore after a close field-to-field inspection reports that the population in his seven selected villages has decreased by 20 per cent, the cultivation has fallen off by 45 per cent. in area, and the crop is approximately an 8 anna crop; so that the produce on the ground is 27·5 per cent. of the ordinary produce of a good year. Again in a good season it would appear that there are 2 acres cultivated per head, whereas in the present season there are only 1-36 of an acre cultivated per head, therefore, the crop being an 8 anna one there is just one-third of the usual produce for each person in the ground.

THURSDAY, 24TH JANUARY.

WE UNDERSTAND that Mr. Daukes, Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, is about to take furlough to start for Europe, and that Mr. C E. Buckland, at present Private Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, is likely to be appointed to officiate during his absence.

IT IS stated that on the recommendation of the Government of Madras the Secretary of State has approved of the suspension of Mr. Rice of the Civil Service from all employment for a period of six months, and at the expiration of that period, of his appointment as an assistant to a Collector. Mr. Rice's offence consisted in the writing of an insulting letter to the Collector of Coimbatore.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Secretary of State has approved the decision of the Government of India in revoking the recognition of Kulubha as heir presumptive to the Chiefship of Nowanuggar in Kattywar. No doubt, we are informed, is entertained as to Kulubha's unfitness to fill the post of ruler to this important state, and instructions have already been issued directing him and his family to reside outside Nowanuggar territory. The question of the succession is still pending.

IN CREATING the Right Reverend Thomas Valpy French Bishop of Lahore, Her Majesty the Queen has also appointed him to a vacant chaplaincy on the Bengal Establishment drawing pay as a senior chaplain. A similar course will be followed with respect to the appointment of the Right Reverend Jonathan Titcomb to the Bishopric of Rangoon Thus the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment is being increased instead of being decreased. When the new Bishoprics were sanctioned, it was understood that they would be maintained by voluntary contributions.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Secretary of State has entirely approved of the orders issued by the Government of India some months ago with respect to octroi taxation, and has called for a special report on their general operation, after the system of direct collection has been in force for 12 months in those provinces in which a different system had previously obtained.

WE ARE glad to learn that in consideration of the conduct of Moonshi Harprashad (Extra Assistant Commissioner in Oudh) during the Mutiny and of his subsequent valuable services to the Government, the Secretary of State has been pleased to sanction, as a special case, that he may be allowed to count his service under the Military Department towards civil pension so as to entitle him to a pension equal to half his average salary. Munshi Harprashad who retires on the 31st March next has a total service of upwards of 32 years.

IN COMMENTING on the despatch of the Government of India, regarding the suspensions and remissions of revenue during the past financial year, the Secretary of State expresses his satisfaction that, without any harshness or undue pressure, so large a portion of the land revenue has been collected in Bombay at such a time. Such a result is, in his Lordship's opinion, highly creditable to the revenue officers of the Bombay Presidency. But how is his Lordship satisfied that there has been no suffering to the ryots in making two years' payments in one? We hear bitter complaints from Bombay.

IN CONNECTION with this subject it may be stated that out of a total sum for collection in the Bombay Presidency, amounting to Rs. 2,62,99,590, no less than Rs. 2,33,40,250, was collected by the end of August. Remissions to the extent of only Rs. 2,15,110 were granted and it was hoped that the whole of the balance would be recovered. It was also anticipated that the entire revenue for 1877-78 would be collected. Have the crops doubled this year to enable the ryots to make this double payment?

A CORRESPONDENCE has recently taken place between the India Office and the Admiralty on the subject of the Royal Salute in India. From this correspondence it would appear that it was originally intended that the salute of 101 guns should be reserved for the Sovereign's personal presence in India, and that upon all other ceremonial occasions, anniversaries &c., the lesser salute of 31 guns should be fired. Owing apparently to some vagueness in the wording of the despatch on the subject this intention was not clearly explained. It is thought however, expedient that this arrangement should now be adhered to and instructions, we are informed, are to be issued accordingly.

WE HAVE received the prospectus of a new weekly Anglo-Urdu newspaper, for which sanction has been given by the British Resident, to be published at Hyderabad from the 1st February next. The journal will contain translations of war telegrams, leaders, and correspondence on Arts, Science, Commerce &c. We wish the project or every success.

A CORRESPONDENT suggests that advantage should be taken of the occasion of Mr. Sterndale's departure on leave to try the experiment of appointing an Engineer as Vice-Chairman of the Suburban Municipality who may be both Vice Chairman and Engineer on a salary of Rs. 600 per month. He also suggests that instead of the present highly paid supervisor the Municipality may appoint an Overseer on Rs. 100 per month. We second the suggestions of our correspondent.

WE HAVE received a letter from Madaripur complaining of the management by Mr. Owen of the estates of the Kotalipara zemindars. The gist of the complaint is firstly that the estate is being impoverished by the reckless grant of putni tenures, secondly that he is guided chiefly by the counsels of a native gentleman, who holds no office under the manager. We cannot vouch for the truth of these complaints, but would advise the aggrieved to send up a petition to Government.

FRIDAY, 25TH JANUARY.

THE SADHARANI announces the death of a native gentleman, who though not much known to fame was a man of extraordinary merits. The name of this gentleman was Hurrykrishna Sen Mullick. Having completed his education at the Krishnagar College he started on a tour for the upper provinces where he made himself a thorough master of Indian Music. After devoting some years to the cultivation of music he applied himself to the study of homœopathy. It next struck him that the Hindu system of medicine was in danger of becoming obsolete and forgotten; he began reprinting with translation the celebrated Hindu work on medicine called the Bhavut, of which he lived to publish only nine parts He opened also a Hindu school of medicine to which something like a hospital was attached. The school during its short existence succeeded in turning out one practitioner well read in the Hindu system of medicine. We hope some worthy successor will take up the good work left by the lamented deceased.

THE BHARUT MIHIR strongly recommends the creation of a Subdivision at Netwan in the Mymensing district. The temporary visit of Mr. Anderson to dispose of criminal cases has afforded great relief, but our contemporary is of opinion that a permanent arrargement ought to be made.

THE SAME PAPER sounds a note of alarm about the price of rice. Although this is harvest time, the price of rice in the district now ranges from Rs. 2-12 to Rs. 2-14 a maund.

A TELEGRAM from Madras states approximate decrease on famine relief 22,000. Now remaining about 350,000. Prices slightly inclined to rise. Imports into Madras increasing.

A TELEGRAM from the Chief Commissioner, Assam, dated Golaghat 22nd, states that Mozema has paid money-fines inflicted and given up the plundered mails and arms and accoutrements of escorting constables killed. It has also surrendered the number of guns of its own demanded by us. When some minor matters are arranged the expedition will return to Samaguting.

A PARTY at Yakka Khel on the 21st fired on some British officers in the Pass, and wounded one horse belonging to the escort. A telegram from the Commissioner of Kohat dated 22nd states that the Pass-Afridis are very indignant with Yakka Khels and are pressing the Jowakis to submit unreservedly. Coming in of Jirga delayed by the Yakka Khel's misconduct. General Ross and Colonel Doran's brigade returned to Peshwar on the 22nd through the pass.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY received a visit yesterday from the Archbishop of Goa, accompanied by the Consul General of Portugal. The Maharaja of Cooch Behar was also honored with a private interview with His Excellency the same afternoon.

A TELEGRAM from the Jowaki Expedition dated 23rd states that the remaining towers of Jamrud were blown up by Colonel Buchanan's force yesterday, after which it moved to Turkey. It will move through the Kohat Pass to Shergasha on the 24th. All well. The Jowaki Jirgah is expected to reach camp to-day A later telegram of the same date 6 P. M states the Jowaki Jirgah numbering sixty reached camp this afternoon. The Commissioner of Kohat and General Keyes proceed from Kohat to Camp on the 24th to receive them.

A RUMOUR of uncertain authority from the frontier states that the Ameer of Cabul is sending all available troops towards Candahar. The cause of this new movement is not stated. Russian Envoys are represented as still going to and from Cabul, and the latest arrived envoy, it is said, "is treated with much consideration."

WE UNDERSTAND that measures are about to be taken to prevent the indiscriminate destruction of wild elephants in British Burma. The subject is one for the Legislature to deal with, and an Act will probably be passed, similar to the Act now in force in Madras. Since the introduction of the Madras Act (I of 1873) it appears from the district reports that the stoppage of the indiscriminate slaughter of elephants the stock in some of the forests is said to have slightly increased. The Act, however, has not been sufficiently long in operation to allow of any considerable increase in the stock.

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SATURDAY, 26TH JANUARY.

A CORRESPONDENT contradicts our Darjeeling correspondent to say that the establishment of the Commissioner of the Rajshye Division are not allowed a hill allowance, but a slight increase to their pay in the shape of local allowance.

WE ARE sorry we were led into a mistake in reporting the monky case, in which we read, it would appear wrongly, that a man had been arrested by a military officer, because his monkey bit a child of that officer. The *Pioneer* thus corrects us: "The fact was the officer's monkey bit the soldier's child, and the soldier shot the monkey." If so, under what law did the officer arrest the soldier?

WE HASTEN to correct another error. We wrote last week that the *Statesman*, though so well conducted, had not received the measure of support which it deserved. Our contemporary corrects us by saying that "the circulation of the *Statesman* is we believe much the largest of all the Calcutta papers." We are really glad to hear this. The *Statesman* deserves and ought to command success.

THE ENGLISHMAN is deliberately of opinion that "for some of the most ungraceful traits of the young Bengali's character his British school-masters are responsible." Our contemporary goes elaborately into facts to prove this assertion. He has mauled Marshman's History of India to tatter. We hope Dr. Hunter's History of India will steer clear of the defects which the writer points out.

IN REVIEWING the letter of the British Indian Association to the Bengal Council regarding the License Tax Bill the *Indian Daily News* says:

> In suggesting that the absense of all serious retrenchment constitutes a weak point in the proposals of the Government, the Association only repeats a thought that must have occurred to many intelligent students of those proposals; but in hinting that any retrenchment which it is open to the Bengal Government to carry out at once would enable that Government to dispense with the fresh demands which it is making on the resources of the country, the Association transgresses the limits of a useful reflection of public feeling.

The Association urges that the new tax should not be made permanent, that it should be remitted as soon as necessary retrenchments are made and that vigorous measures should be taken towards that end, and in saying so, we can assure our contemporary, the Association faithfully reflects native "public feeling," whatever may be other public feeling on the subject.

WE HAVE received a small brochure entitled Primary Grammar in Bengali, by Babu Muthuranath Burma, Additional Superintendent, Oriental Seminary. It is chiefly compiled from modern Grammarians such as Angus, Adams, Bain, Morris, and others. The compiler explains the subjects in Bengali. His book is likely to be useful to the students of the junior classes in our schools.

ABOUT one-fourth of the candidates for the B. A. Degree in the Calcutta University have passed this year, viz 8 in the first division, 17 in the second division, and 43 in the third division. For the B. L. degree 29 have passed, viz. 3 in the first division and 26 in the second division.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, 18th January.—The House of Lords agreed without division to address in reply to the speech from the throne. The debate in the House of Commons on the address has been adjourned in consequence of Irish members moving an amendment to the adress, demanding consideration of Home Rule. Lord Hamilton gave notice of a motion in the Commons for a Select Committee as to the expediency of constructing public works in India by aid of loans. The London papers of to-day approve the Queen's speech. Advices from Rome state the funeral of the King of Italy was carried out with great pomp at Pantheon. Prince Frederic William of Germany and many other Princes attended.

19th—The Russian loss in the capture of the Schipka Pass was 5,464 men. The Russians have occupied Philipopolis, and threaten Adrianople. There is a suspension of hostilities in Bulgaria. The Blue Book on the Eastern Question shows that Lord derby all long informed Turkey, in a decided manner, that there was no hope of British intervention.

19th—The House of Commons have negatived an amendment to the address, in reply to the speech from the throne, brought forward by the Irish members. Captain Andrew Scott, 4th Sikhs, receives the Victoria Cross for his gallantry during the late *emeute* at Quetta. The Russians have occupied Hermanli, and have arrived before Ardinople, which the Turks have evacuated. The retreat of Suleiman's army is threatened. The Mahomedan population of Roumelia is flying to Constantinople. There is a general rising in Thessaly. Advices from the Cape state that there has been a general rising among the Gaikas, followed by severe fighting, which resulted in success to the British arms.

20th—Latest advices state that the garrison of adrianople is in full retreat towards Constantinople. The Sultan has called out for military service all men capable of bearing arms in Constantinople, to defend the line of railway at Tchataldja. The king of Italy has taken the oath of constiention, and on the occasion made a speech, leberal in its tendencies.

21st.—The statement that hostilities had ceased in Bulgaria is premature. Ghazi Ahmed Muktar has been appointed Commander of the Turkish line of defence at Constantinople. The Turks have devastated the country between Tatar Bazardchick and Philipopolis. Insurrection has broken out in Macedonia.

21st.—Suleiman Pacha, with his army, has retreated to the Rhodope mountains, south of Roumalia. The Turkish delegates

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who deputed to arrange an armistice have arrived at the Russian head-quarters.

22*nd*.—A despatch from the Secretary of State for India to the Viceroy, dated the 10th instant, recognises the ability and devotion of Lord Lytton and other officials during the famine and recommends that a commission of three or five impartial persons be appointed to enquire into the best means for its prevention in future. In the House of Commons last night, Sir Stafford Northcote, in reply to a question, said the English Government was as yet ignorant of the conditions upon which Russia would conclude peace. The Honorable R. Bourke said the Chefoo Convention was not yet ratified The Government was awaiting despatches from the Indian Government before deciding on the commercial points of the convention. Lord George Hamilton said he was unaware that Maharajah Scindia had omitted to visit the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

23*rd*.—In the House of Commons, Sir Stafford Northcote, replying to a question, said that the Queen had personally telegraphed to the Czar, conveying the Sultan's desire for peace and hoping that His Majesty would accelerate the suspension of hostilities. The House of Commons have agreed to a select committee of enquiry into the expediency of carrying on Public Works in India by means of loans. The latest advices from the seat of war state that general Gourko had driven Suleiman Pacha into the Rhodope mountins, and that the loss was 7,000, killed, wounded, and prisoners, and 49 guns. The Turkish Army Corps, under the respective commands of Mehemed and Ahmed Eyoub Pachas, are concentrated at Kirkilissa, East Adrianople.

23*rd*.—There is a panic in Gallipoli in consequence of the reported advance of the Russians on that place. Suleiman Pasha has arrived at Kavala, on the coast. The Royal Warrant, dated 21st December, orders the retirement of General officers of the Indian army at the age of 70, from the 1st October 1877, unless the Secretary of State for India recommends exception.

24*th*.—The Russians have arrived at Keshan, and are expected to reach Gallipoli on Saturday. The Grand Duke Nicholas starts from Kezanlik for Adrianople to-morrow. The St. Petersburg semi-official journals state that the relations between England and Russia are improved. The Turkish Parliament has petitioned the Sultan to hasten the conclusion of peace, but, if conditions are exorbitant, have resolved to continue the war to the last extremity.

24*th*.—The news of the Russian advance on Gallipoli is semi-officially denied here to-day. A further semi-official statement on the same subject adds that the Russians do not intend occupying, or attaching, Gallipoli, unless the Turkish regular army is concentrated there, and threatens the Russian flank.

24*th January*. In the House of Commons this evening, Sir Stafford Northcote gave notice that, on the 28th instant, he would move for a supplement in the army and Navy estimates. In reply to questions asked, Lord Beneonsfield in the Lords and Sir Staford Northcote in the Commons said these extra supplies were required, because the Russians continued their advances, and were concealing peace conditions.

25*th January*. Lord Carnarvon has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted. Lord Derby has also entered his resignation It is reported that the Commander of Mediterranean Squadron has been ordered to land a force to defend Galipoli, and to send for the garrison of Malta, if the Russians continue to advance on Galipoli.

26*th*.—In the House of Commons Sir Stafford Northcote replying to a question respecting the remoured movement of the British fleet to Gallipoli, said that on Wednesday, the commander of the Mediterranean Squadron was ordered to enter Dardanelles solely for the purpose of keeping open the waterway, and protecting the British interests, but that last night when it was known that Russia had communicated the conditions of peace to the Porte, the commander of Squadron was ordered to stop at the entry of Dardanelles. Sir Stafford Northcote, in reply to a further question, said that extra grant for the Army and Navy estimates, which Parliament will be asked to vote, will amount to six millions of sterling. Lord Beaconsfield, in reply to a question, said that the British Government before ordering the commander of Squadron to enter Dardanelles, had informed all the Powers that it had no intention of breaking neutrality. Lord Carnarvon in the House of Lords announced having thrice tendered his resignation; first, on the occasion of Lord Beaconsfield, censuring his speech on the 2nd January; again in consequence of his dissenting from the views of the other members of the Cabinet in the matter of special vote for the Naval and Military preparations, and finally as to the advisability of ordering the fleet to Dardanelles.

Constantinople, 24th January. The Porte has received from Russia the conditions required before concluding peace. They are very harsh, and include a heavy indemnity from the Porte, and the occupation of Turkish territory by Russia until the same is paid.

25*th*.—The Porte has pledged its word to Russia that the conditions of peace shall be concealed until the treaty of peace between Turkey and Russia has actually been concluded.

Vienna. 24th January. The Imperial Austrian Ministry has tendered its resignation, in consequence of a dispute respecting customs revenue.

WE HAVE received the half-yearly report of the Fort Gloster Jute Manufactory Company, Limited. The net profit on the half-year's working is Rs. 1,07,079-4-10, being at the rate of 15.3 per cent. per annum.

AN EXTRA supplement to the *Gazette of India* has been published containing the correspondence between the Government of India and the Secretary of State on the subject of the administration of the North Western Frontier of India. We propose to notice it in our next.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1 Report on the Police of the Lower Provinces of the Bengal Presidency for 1876. 2 Report on the Jails of Bengal for 1876. 3 Annual Statement of the Sea-Borne Trade and Navigation of the Bengal Presidency for 1876-77. Vol. II. 4 Journal of the Asiatic Society, Vol. 46. Part I, No 3, 1877. 5 Travancore Almanac for 1878. 6 Jeypore Pocket Directory and Diary for 1878. 7 Biswa Ruhusya in Bengali or a collection of facts in Physical Science. Part 1. Published by Sarodaprosaud Chatterjee. 8 Report on the working of the Thuggee and Dacoity Department for 1876. 9 The Registration Manual. By the late Babu Komaakunt Sen, B.A.B.L. Published by Messrs. Wyman & Co., 10 Half-Yearly Report of the Fort Gloster Jute Manufactory Company Limited. 11 Primary Grammar in Bengali, compiled by Mathuranath Burma. 12 Journal of the National Indian Association for January 1878. 13 Madras Famine Report, No. 16. 14 Bunga Mohila, Vol. III, Nos. 6 and 7. 15 Who are the Troublers of the State or the Trans-Frontier Policy impeached 16 Our Courts of Law and how to improve them by A. H. 17. Bharut Sramajibi or the Indian Workman No. 8, Vol. 4. 18. Constitutional Agitation. A speech. By Mr. O'Donnell M. P.

WITH reference to a paragraph that has appeared in several newspapers to the effect that a contract for a portion of the earthwork of the Ahmadabad and Pahlanpore Railway had been let at an extravagant rate, and sublet at a large profit, we are authorised to state that the contract rate mentioned was absolutely false, and largely in excess of the actual rate, which was a particularly cheap one fer that part of the Bombay Presidency.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

BABU JOYKISSEN MOOKERJEA'S PRIZES.

Babu Joykissen Mookerjea has authorized the committee of Management of the above Association to announce that he will award the following Prizes annually to students who regularly attend the Lectures of the Association and work in its Laboratory:

First Prize of Rs. 100 to the student who shall have attended at least four-fifths of the number of lectures delivered in the course of one year, and who shall obtain the highest number of marks in the annual examination provided that number does not come short of two-thirds of the marks from written, and one-half from practical, examination.

Second Prize of Rs. 60 to the student who shall have attended at least four-fifths of the number of lectures delivered in one year, and pass second best in the annual examination, provided the number of marks he obtains does not come short of one-half from written, and one-third from practical, examination.

Third Prize of Rs. 40 to the student who shall have attended at least four-fifths of the number of lectures delivered within one year, and who shall pass third in the annual examination, provided the number of marks he obtains does not come short of one-third from written, and one-fourth from practical, examination.

The examination shall be held annually in January. The first examination shall be held in January 1879.

Those who intend to compete for the Prizes should have their names registered at the office of the Association before the 31st January next.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M.D.,
Honorary Secretary.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont. J. S, on *Thursday* the 31*st Inst*. next at 7 P. M.
Subject: Optical Study of Sound.

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on *Saturday* the 2*nd February* at 3 P. M
Subject: Electric Induction and Distribution of Electricity.

Admission Fee for non-subscribers—*Annas* 8 for a single Lecture: Or Rs. 3 in advance for 12 consecutive Lectures.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D,
Honorary Secretary.

26th January, 1878.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1878.

IRRIGATION.

THE battle of Indian irrigation is raging hot and strong in England. We have already noticed the demonstration made at Manchester by Sir Arthur otton and Mr. Bright. Sir James Stephen has answered them in the columns of the *Times*. Although Sir James is not a professional person, still he has very effectively answered Sir Arthur Cotton. Unfortunately Sir James's figures are not all correct. The best answer as we remarked last week is contained in Sir Andrew Clark's speech in the Vice-regal Council. We will examine briefly the facts given by Sir Andrew Clarke shewing what irrigation has done for the country. Take Bengal first. It has a population of 62,000,000, 48,000,000 acres of land under food crops and 7,500,000 acres producing industrial staples of one kind or the other. It has in operation three Irrigation schemes, viz., Orissa, Sone, and Midnapore, which protect generally some 1,231,000 acres, or 2·2 per cent. of the whole cultivated area of the Province. In the last year water was taken from them for 360,000 acres, or only a little more than ½ per cent. of the total lands under crops. It has already cost close on 4½ millions sterling or £4 an acre, while the return does not cover even the working charges. In the Panjab, exclusive of ancient works, nearly 3½ millions sterling have been spent in irrigating a little more than 1 million acres. In the North Western Provinces, £5,500,000 have been already expended in irrigating, according to the last returns, some 1,390,000 acres. In Madras six millions have already been spent. The results are certainly better there, for whilst in ordinary years some five million acres receive the full benefits of irrigation, in the very worst years one million six hundred thousand acres are effectually protected,—yet Madras, with its 32 millions of people, has even then but seven per cent. of its agricultural industry secured from disaster in years of ordinary rainfall, and a much smaller area in years of drought. In Bombay exclusive of Sindh, with 19 million acres under cultivation, some 17,000 can now be irrigated. The works are estimated to cost more than 2 millions and when completed will irrigate from eight to nine hundred acres. It will be thus seen that notwithstanding so much outlay, the canals, even if they do not fail in seasons of drought, can irrigate but a fraction of the country, so that they can be but a very imperfect insurance against the Famine. As Sir Andrew said, "we have spent some 24 millions sterling, and for this we have some 14,000 square miles actually irrigated with more or less certitude as regards permanency of supply. In other words we have had to pay £1,700 for each square mile, or something under £3 an acre. Even if we had the water at command and it were otherwise practicable to protect all the agricultural land of India, it would demand on this basis, an outlay of at least some three hundred millions sterling." And where is the money to come from? Sir Andrew remarked:

"I said just now *if practicable* because, in order to irrigate, we must have water, either annual from heaven or perennial from the snows of the Himalayas. The first we must regard, I fear, as precarious and uncertain, and as for the last, great as is the extent of the region over which the snow waters have their influence and though possibly more may yet be garnered of their generous and perpetually recurring flow, we have already in the Punjab and in the North-Western Provinces, especially in the latter, appropriated so great a quantity of it, that we fear we are approaching the limits of the supply. Thus last year we are told that the Ganges Canal was strained to its utmost, and at the fail of its distributaries the cultivators got but a scant supply; thus rendering more doubtful than before, the wisdom of drawing off any further supply for the proposed Eastern Ganges Canal."

So much for the practicability of covering the country with irrigation canals. Much stress has been laid on the results of the Madras Irrigation Company. Read what Sir Andrew Clarke says:

"The Irrigation and combined navigation systems of the Godavari and Kistna, projected to open up traffic from the Eastern sea-board to the country of their sources and even to the Western Ghats, and ultimately to debouch at Carwar on the Western Coast, give little prospect or encouragement for us to anticipate from them the great benefits or facilities predicted by their projectors. It is not difficult to understand this when the main link in the chain, that of the Madras Irrigation Company, is closed for six months of the year, because the source of its water-supply is closed to it for that time! Even if this source were a constant one, the extension of the navigation to the Coast is barred by physical difficulties of apparently an insurmountable character."

Then again the canals cannot be maintained without a compulsory rate, and what a source of oppression to the people it would prove would be found from the following extract from a report of the Bengal Government on the working of the Midnapore canals:

'In Midnapore the rainfall was 75 inches more in the opinion of the raiyats than is good even for rice. Hence Canal water was at a discount. There was a large falling off in the leased area, which has again been followed by a very much larger decrease in 1877-78.'

'The previous year having been a very favourable one for the unirrigated crops, the area leased for in 1876-77 fell from 55,995 acres to 32,681.

It is melancholy to read of 12,714 certificates having been issued for the recovery of the arrears after abandoning all claims for less than one rupee, and making remission to a large extent on other grounds; and this in a district where the irrigators have, as a rule, dealt fairly with Government, and have always been ready to pay when they had the means.

'Again, attachments and sales of the debtors' property were very frequent, and where they had not the desired effect, the debtors were arrested for the realization of the Government dues; and it is now a very common saying within the irrigable area that the major portion of the Government irrigators have been deprived of their plough-cattle for the payment of the water-rates.'

If Sir James Stephen had been in possession of these facts he could have answered Mr. Bright and Sir Arthur Cotton much more effectively. What the sufferings of the people would be from a compulsory rate for these so-called insurance works we leave the reader to imagine. Much better as Lord Salisbury said that the people should suffer once in ten years than that they should be burdened with a compulsory permanent tax, to meet which, as stated in the Midnapore report, they are compelled to part with their agricultural cattle and implements.

THE NORTHERN BENGAL STATE RAILWAY.

WE gave last week a brief account of the opening of the Northern Bengal State Railway. This Railway passes through some of the most fertile districts of Bengal, and bids fair to open a great future for those districts. We have been kindly furnished with the following succinct history of this undertaking. The first trial surveys were made by Lieutenant Bisset R. E. in 1870 from Rampur Beauleah to Titalyah and between Kooshtea, Rungpore and Bograh. In December 1871 survey parties were organized under Col. Drummond R. E. and ran trial lines from Sadamaree on the Oorasagur river to Silligooree, and from Dhaparee on the Ganges to Rungpur and Silligooree. Three months later Major Lindsay took over charge of the surveys. A Special Commissioner was sent to report on the best trade route between the Ganges and the hills; he recommended a line near the left bank of the Atrai river. Sir George Campbell, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, suggested the line now constructed, and the survey was completed in 1873. At the close of 1873 a famine being apprehended in Northern Bengal immediate orders were received for the construction of the line, Engineers and Subordinates were hurried to the work from all parts of India and earthwork was commenced about February 1874. Strict orders were given that no labor was to be imported, and the work was reserved for local laborers. The construction of the line really began during the season 1874-75, but sanction to the commencement of bridging was not received until the season of 1875-76, and it has been completed early in the season 1877-78, *i. e.* in less than three working seasons. The first 52 miles north of the Ganges have been made by Messrs. Burn and Company under great difficulties the work being exceptionally heavy, no local labor available, the working seasons only four months long and the climate most unhealthy. In the 52 miles made by Messrs. Burn and Company there are 1014,70,651 cubic feet of bank and 18 million cubic feet of brickwork. The bridging gives 140 lineal feet of waterway per mile in this length. The total length of the line, including the Rungpore Branch, half of which is now ready for opening, is 210 miles. In this is included the section on the right bank of the Ganges and joining the Eastern Bengal Railway at Porada: the construction of this length, which contains 200 lakhs of cubic feet of earthwork, was ordered in April 1876. The Engineers, who have been on the line from its commencement, and to whom all credit is due are Messrs. Carter, Vigors, Reynolds, Hawkes and Anderson. The difficulties that have been contended with are, the shortness of the working season, which is really only four months long, the extreme unhealthiness of the line, and the total want of all local labor skilled and unskilled. The estimated cost of the line is Rs. 74,000 a mile, up to the end of last month the outlay was approximately Rs. 60,000 a mile. The whole of the permanent way, materiel, and plant had to be brought from Kooshtea and Rajmehal by water to a point 60 miles north of the Ganges; water communication to that point is only open from July to October. From this point (Halullia) the whole of the line was laid telescopically. The whole of the bridging from Halullia to Jalpaiguri 112 miles, with the exception of two small bridges, was completed in one working season. The stations and goods-sheds are still incomplete although sufficient for working purposes during the dry season. The policy of the Engineer-in-chief has been to put all the funds at his disposal into the road and establish through communication as soon as possible. The Engineer-in-chief has had to ask for and has obtained more funds than the original allotment, each financial year.

The above short sketch of the progress of the Northern Bengal State Railway shews that the work has been executed rapidly but under great difficulties. It has indeed been constructed on a vast expause of rice swamps. From Sara to the Atrai, as we passed, we saw the water still standing on the low lands. Ample water-way has been provided, but the working of a few seasons will shew whether it is fully sufficient. By far the most inveterate enemy of the Railway employes was Fever, but we do not know how far the Railway embankments, which could not be at once relieved by culverts for water-way, and which necessarily obstructed the free egress of water, paved the way for the enemy. Another formidable difficulty was the treacherous soil, on which some of the bridges have been built. The small river Buralla seemed to defy engineering skill. As the men at work thought there seemed to be a devil in it. Over and over were the foundations laid and as many times they gave way. At last Major Lindsay triumphed. The new Railway passes through six districts; it partially touches Nuddea and Pubna, the first at Porada, where it joins with the Eastern Bengal Railway, and Damokdeh, and the last at Sara. But it goes through the heart of the four most important Nothern Districts—Rajshye, Dinagepore, Rungpore, and Cooch-Behar. These districts teem with natural resources, which will find a ready market by this railway. They had communications with the centres of trade this side only during the rains, four months out of twelve, but now they will have open communication throughout the year. The material, social and moral advantages of the Railway to the people will be thus immense. As the zemindars of Rungpore in their address to the Lieutenant Governor said the boon conferred by this Railway was inestimable.

We said last week that the ceremony of the opening of the Railway was a great success. Major Lindsay and his staff vied with each other in shewing attention to their guests. The Divisional Commissioner, Lord Ulick Browne, was also active and obliging. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor was kind and courteous to all those who collected at different stations to pay him their respects. Unfortunately His Honor having no distinctive dress or mark, many poor people had to go away disappointed, as they could not make out who was who. It were to be wished that the Governor of a province when appearing before the people would wear some distinctive dress, if not for the sake of his own dignity, at any rate for identification. There was an interesting incident at Nattore, which we cannot refrain from noticing. More than twenty years ago His Honor as Assistant Magistrate was in charge of Nattore, and when the train halted there, he enquired if any of his old amla were present. Two were introduced, to whom he spoke very kindly; he asked them whether they had anything to say; one of them replied that he had retired under the 55 years' rule, but that his application for pension, made more than 18 months ago, had not yet been granted! His Honor requested the Commissioner, Lord Ulick Browne, to make a note of this circumstance. On return journey His Honor was met at Sara by a deputation of ryots, who complained that they had not received compensation for their lands taken up for the Railway; His Honor promised the fullest enquiry. At Saidpore His Honor conversed with the zemindars assembled, particularly with the enlightened zemindar of Tooshbhandar, Babu Rammony Mohun Roy Choudry, on several local matters. The zemindars made great rejoicings at the inauguration of the Railway and the honor done to them by the advent of the Lieutenant Governor. We heard only one complaint; it was about the insult offered by the Police to the Minor Maharaja of Dinagepore, whose palki was not allowed to approach the pavilion, although in rank he was the first native gentleman present, had lent elephants, tents and other things and liberally contributed to the promotion of the demonstration. But the occasion was auspicious in other respects. The zemindars of Rungpore and Dinagepore, who were of a somewhat exclusive disposition, were happily united through the exertions of Raja Promothonath Roy and Rao Saheb Radhagovid Roy Rai Bahadur of Dinagepore. We hope the union thus effected will prove a lasting one.

THE ARMS BILL.

THE more we study the Arms Bill, the more we are convinced that it is wholly uncalled for. In introducing the Bill Sir Arthur Bayley said, "there was good reason to believe that, under the existing law, the import-trade in cheap arms and ammunition had grown up to an unwholesome extent, and that far larger quantities were exported than were required merely for legitimate purpose. It was known to the Government of India that cheap arms were in fact brought and sold to an extent quite incompatible with the maintenance of peace and good government." Now, what are the facts? The *Statesman*, which has taken up the subject in right earnest, gives the following figures of fire-arms of all descriptions imported into Calcutta during the last three years:

	Rifles.	Guns.	Pistols.
1875	441	1,788	482
1876	280	1,536	283
1877	162	793	426

It will be thus seen that less than 1,400 arms of all descriptions were imported into Calcutta last year, and the reason of this decline is given by our contemporary. He says, "the figures given above, shew that since a high minimum value of fire-arms allowable for importation was fixed, the importation has greatly decreased. Where we had 2,219 guns and rifles imported in 1875, we have but 955, or less than half the number, in 1877." We believe a similar decrease has taken place in the imports into Bombay and Madras. We have not been able to procure the exact number of arms imported through the other ports, but we give the value from the Trade and Navigation returns for the last four years:

Year	Bengal Rs.	Bombay Rs.	Sind Rs.	Madras Rs.	British Burma. Rs.
1872-73	546,900	353,351	20,141	84,304	84,802
1873-74	402,616	235,711	19,936	56,208	84,725
1874-75	367,611	310,757	23,321	81,623	59,869
1875-76	172,847	120,260	4,543	54,231	20,744

Do the above figures support Sir Edward Bayley's assertion that the importation of arms has grown to an unwholesome extent of late years? Where is then the political danger, to guard against which an exceptionally repressive law is required? Are not the existing arrangements sufficient to meet the evil, whatever it may be? As the *Statesman* points out, "the police have very elaborate arrangements for the safe working of the Act relating to fire-arms. Every dealer is bound to keep a register of his stock and of his sales, the latter setting forth the nature and description of the arms sold, the quantity, price, purchaser's name—if he be a native, his father's name also—and residence. A licensed dealer residing outside of Calcutta, requires a special permission (called "Form C") from the police authorities, to allow him to remove the arms out of Calcutta. In this form, are set forth all the particulars of the gun for which it is issued, with the dealer's name, address, police district, and so on. With all this machinery, are the police really unable to control the annual disposal of less than 1,000 guns.

many of which are breechloading sporting fowling-pieces, and rifles, imported by our European gun-dealers and merchants, for purely sporting purposes? And are we to be alarmed with visions of hundreds of thousands of arms of precision laid up by traitors for a day of rebellion, or flitting across the frontiers to be used against us by the Affghans or the Russians? Must we, in view of the facts and considerations we have advanced, be driven into sensational legislation, calculated to alarm the whole community, and deprive loyal citizens of the pleasure and profit of sport, and of what is, in many parts of the country, a necessary protection from wild beasts, if not from men?" We entirely concur. A more lame excuse has not been advanced for legislation of a most repressive character than the grounds assigned for this Bill. Surely our Government as a military power is strong enough to resist such hallucinations. Sir Edward Bayley says that there has been an unwholesome increase in the importation of "cheap arms," but these "cheap arms" are not "arms of precision." Where is then the danger apprehended? The people require arms for self-defence against attacks from the wild beasts of the forest and also human beasts, but our Government would not allow them to keep these necessary means of protection. By all means restrict the trade in arms, but not in the way proposed, which would simply destroy it. If there was really any political danger arising from the trade in arms, both Europeans and Natives in all loyalty would submit to the proposed legislation, but they cry out because they do not see any such danger.

So much for importation. Let us turn to the provisions relating to the possession of arms, In the first place the Bill does not define arms that is to say whether it includes only fire-arms or arms of all descriptions from a lathi or dao to a canon. Then the Bill provides "that any person found carrying or conveying any arms, ammunition or military stores, whether covered by a license or not, in such manner or under such circumstances as to afford just grounds of suspicion that the same are being carried by him with intent to use them, or that the same may be used, for any unlawful purpose dangerous to the public peace, may be apprehended without warrant by any other person and detained in custody in order that he may be dealt with according to law." Now, even a license will not save a person from persecution or suspicion. He may be arrested by any person, Policeman or not, and thus a most fearful engine of oppression will be placed in the hands of the wicked or vindictive. The person arresting will be the judge as to how the accused will use the arms. If he arrests wrongfully, he is not to be punished. Could anything be more arbitrary and capricious than this? And yet this system is to be proclaimed the law of the land! In the next place the Bill provides "that whoever does any act mentioned in clause *(a) (c) (d) (f)* of section fifteen, in such manner as to indicate an intention that such act may not be known to any public servant as defined in the Indian Penal Code, or any officer or servant of a Railway Company or any public carrier, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years, or with fine, or with both." Now, how is this intention to be inferred? An overt act is intelligible, but under this section a man is to be punished for cherishing an intention, which is not susceptible of clear proof. Again, a magistrate on mere suspecion, or as the Bill puts it when "he has reason to believe, that any person residing within the local limits of his jurisdiction has in his possession any arms, ammunition or military stores for any unlawful purpose, or that such person cannot be left in the possession of any such arms, ammunition or military stores without danger to the public peace," "may cause a search to be made of the house or premises occupied by such person, or in which such Magistrate has reason to believe such arms, ammunition or military stores are or is to be found, and may seize and detain the same whether covered by a license or not, in safe custody for such time as he thinks necessary." Thus a most loyal subject, if he happens to incur the displeasure of the magistrate, may be persecuted by that officer under colour of this law, without apparently any redress. The whole Bill has been thus conceived in a most arbitrary spirit. We do hope that the Government will pause and consider before it enacts it into law.

THE HEALTH-OFFICER OF CALCUTTA.

REFERRING to the last annual report of the Health-Officer:—"Mr. Eden has read this report with great interest. It displays patient research and great ability in dealing with the difficult problems of sanitation in Calcutta. Mr. Eden would have wished that the tone were more moderate and conciliatory, for he is persuaded that to make sanitation efficient in Calcutta the people of the city must be led, and not driven, into co-operation with the Sanitary Department. Dr. Payne should bear in mind that one case in which native society is induced by conviction to adopt a sanitary theory is worth hundreds of cases in which they are pressed into submitting to reforms of the benefits of which they are not satisfied. The Sanitary Officer must remember that the principles and theories which to him seem so obvious and indisputable have not even yet received practical acceptation in many countries in a much more advanced condition of social progress than India, and that more is to be gained by patiently and gently endeavouring to establish the soundness of these theories by practical results than by hard language in respect of those who are not prepared to accept at once the conclusions at which he may have arrived after many years of hard study of the whole subject. In some of the finest cities in civilized Europe, with every appliance and convenience for sanitary improvement available, there are streets, lanes, and houses whose description, if faithfully given, would throw into the shade the vivid pictures of filth of Calcutta so graphically drawn by Dr. Payne."

Again:—"The Lieutenant-Governor's own view, formed on a dispassionate consideration of the whole question, is that these tanks are very mischievous in their effects; that they are a reproach to such a city as Calcutta; and that they should be filled in on a thoroughly well-prepared system block by block: and if this is done simultaneously with a proper supply of drinking water from hydrants and bathing water from reservoirs capable of being emptied and replenished as occasion might require, Mr. Eden is satisfied that the native inhabitants of Calcutta will not be found obstructive in regard to such an obvious reform in a matter affecting their personal health and comfort. That the people are not slow to accept sanitary reform if pressed upon them with tact, and in such a manner as to carry conviction as the result of practical teaching, is clear from the statement made by Dr. Payne at page 24 of his report—"From that time complaint has been rare and applications are now received for the filling in of tanks in numbers far exceeding the Engineer's powers of compliance." From this it would seem that the difficulty of persuading the natives to consent to the filling in of tanks has practically been solved; and the Lieutenant-Governor is satisfied that there is nothing which really retards the improvement of the town so much as the long, desultory, recriminating discussions which so constantly take place at the municipal meetings; it is to remedy this, and to secure the harmonious and quiet transaction of real business by select committees, that the Chairman should endeavour to obtain the co-operation of the Municipal Commissioners. There are a sufficient number of sensible, practical, and experienced gentlemen in the Corporation to make it a matter of certainty that if irritating, useless, and exciting discussions can be avoided, the work of sanitary reform will be carried out vigorously and earnestly."

Lieutenant-Governor's Resolution on the Administration Report of the Calcutta Municipality for 1876, *dated the 7th August* 1877.

Thus wrote the Lieutenant Governor about six months ago. Has the Health-Officer profited by the lessons administered by the head of the Government? We will take his last quarterly report and endeavour to shew how faithfully he has attended to the orders of the Lieutenant Governor. This report consists of five pages, of which the first page comprises chiefly tables of births and deaths, and four and a half lines on fever, the worst disease prevalent during the quarter, and the rest impulsive and intemperate criticisms of the proceedings of the Commissioners and personal abuse of some of them. Adverting to cholera he writes, "the occurrence of 162 deaths in October, following an unusually high number in a dry September, seemed to darken the prospect of the ensuing months. The utmost activity was demanded in using those means which had been followed by good results before, and we were fortunately in a position to apply them on a large scale." What were the "good results" of this "utmost activity"?—they were noted in his previous quarterly report. In other years, during the rainy months, the town enjoyed comparative immunity from cholera, but under Dr. Payne's de-watering process it lost that immunity. Thus, in the 3rd quarter of 1869, the total number of cholera deaths in the town was 169, in 1870, 119, in 1871, 135, in 1872, 201, in 1873, 104, in 1874, 84, in 1875, 109, in 1876, 105, but in 1877, 222. Such were the "good results of his activity." They had evidently alarmed Dr. Payne, and he advised the Chairman to issue notices to all proprietors of tanks indiscriminately requiring them to fill them up at once. He wrote:

In October cholera must be expected to increase, and the cases of sudden emergency to become numerous. There will be no money to do promptly even so much as was done before nor is it right that the Municipality should be called on to pay for work done on the property of men who are themselves able to pay for it. Accordingly, in order that, in every cases of necessity, we may be in a position to proceed at the cost of properietors, I have advised that notices be issued at such date that they may have expired when need arises for action, to all proprietors of tanks from which the public health is likely to suffer.

But cholera obeys no fixed law, and there was a remarkable falling-off in its ravages during the last two months of the year. The issue of notice to all proprietors of tanks, fair or foul, without examination and without discrimination, called forth severe censure from the press, both European and Native, but Dr. Payne thus justifies it: "It was a most necessary step, for without it neither the executive nor the Tank Committee could have maintained even a pretence of useful action." We have yet to know that such indiscriminate notice, without enquiry, without deliberation, without report, carrying for non-compliance heavy penalties, means "useful action." The result has been that nobody has paid any attention to the notices. The Health-Officer next states that "it had been the practice when cholera had broken out round a tank to station a police guard on the bank to prevent the use of the water until it could be removed. I proposed to the Tank Committee that the cost of the guard should be recovered from proprietors of tanks. The committee agreed, and not a word of objection was spoken by any one affected, for the charge would be very small. Like many other very necessary measures, however, this was in excess of our statutory powers. The argument of *ultra vires* was promptly taken up by one of the most vigorous defenders of the tanks, and the decision of the committee was set aside in general meeting. From that time we have been unable to obtain a police guard, and even this slender hope of preventing the spread of cholera has disappeared." What a wicked man must that Commissioner be, who called attention to this "excess of statutory powers?" Why did he point out that this charge was illegal? Wasn't this conduct an "obstruction" of the most nefarious kind? Badinage apart, was it not the duty of the Commissioners to see whether their proceedings were legal or illegal? What has the Health-Officer to do with that? Suppose a proprietor had sued the Corporation for damage for making the illegal charge, would the Health-Officer have paid the damage from his own pocket or would his curt sentences have saved the Commissioners from the jaws of the law? And yet the Health-Officer goes out of his province, and condemns the Commissioners for reading the law aright.

Not content with the above criticism the Health-Officer goes on:

"At the present time, then, the Health-Officer has no means and no hope of operating directly against this disease. The opportunity of establishing an effective sanitary service in the town has occurred and every possible endeavour has been made to utilize it. The attempt has failed, though the most perfect success has attended the working of the system in every detail; and it has failed in such a manner as to prove that no evidence of facts or of argument will prevail for the saving of life so long as the municipal body shall continue to be guided as they are at present.

We would have preferred if Dr. Payne had been a little more plain. He should have said that the present Commissioners should be rele-

gated to the obscurity from which they have emerged, and that the light, which he sheds, should be the only guide of the Municipality. Then there would be no one to point out what was *ultra vires*, to protest against the application of night-soil fees for the clearance of bustees, which was entirely private work, or to insist upon enquiry and examination before a tank is filled up. The Health-Officer is more explicit in the next paragraph:

"The Commissioners, however, to whose influence is due the prohibition of all that has yet been attempted, continue to maintain in words that they are not opposed to sanitation as an idea, being resolute only against the practical measures brought forward for carrying it out. I must consider myself unfortunate, therefore, in having failed to gain the approval of the few into whose hands the control of the public health has practically lapsed, and await from them the proposal of alternative measures."

Who are the wicked "few"] that thus restrain the Health-Officer in his indulgence in the "excess of statutory powers"? They give their time, knowledge, and health to municipal affairs without pay, without any consideration and without murmur, and the only reward they receive is rank abuse from their executive officer.

Here is a bit of the Health-Officer's logic:

"There is a point of view from which the partial provision of pure water has a dark aspect. It has enabled the rich to avoid disease and left the poison to the poor. It is among the poor, almost exclusively indeed, that cholera now breaks out. Were this otherwise, were the upper classes visited now as in former times, the evidence against foul water being what it is, outside opinion would be brought to bear with compulsory pressure until there should not remain a foul tank in the place."

We had been hitherto told that the existence of a foul tank was a nuisance to the whole neighbourhood, that it affected the health of the rich and the poor alike, and that it ought therefore to be suppressed. But we are now told by our Health-Officer that a foul tank in sending forth its poison selects only the poor, and that the Commissioners therefore oppose indiscriminate tank-filling! *O! tempora O! mores!*

The Health-Officer seems to have a secret department, for he says:

"I am informed that the dislike with which the more influential Commissioners have regarded the proceedings of this office have been much intensified by the success with which the executive has lately worked in direct communication with the residents of the town, and that the widespread approval and consent of proprietors to sanitary measures has been regarded as an offence against authority, though no rules have been violated. This opinion is corroborated by information officially received of the personal interference of particular Commissioners with the work of this office. If any authority has been outraged, it has not been corporate authority."

If the Health-Officer had moral courage, he should have named the Commissioners, who exercised their powers illegally by "personal interference." In that case the Corporation would not have failed in taking due notice of such "personal interference," but for the Health-Officer to impugn in such general terms in his health-report the conduct of Commissioners, who have proved so obnoxious to him, is simply intolerable. As for his success, if he has achieved it, why does he grumble?

The Health-Officer then criticises the proceedings of the Tank Committee. We have not space to reproduce his remarks, but may we ask whether the Commissioners pay their Health-Officer so handsomely only that he may sit in judgment upon them and their work. The Committee venture to see things with their own eyes, and do not always say "ditto to Burke," and therefore they are obstructive. The Commissioners criticise the reports of the Health-Officer, and therefore they are obstructive. They have lately added two members to the Tank Committee, who disturb the equilibrium of the Health-Officer, and they have therefore committed an unpardonable offence. If the Tank Committee cannot express their opinion or the Commissioners cannot elect members of Committees without provoking the wrath of the Health-officer, the sooner the anomalous relations of the two are put an end to, and the Health-Officer made the autocrat of the town, the better. We have quoted at the head of the article the remarks of the Lieutenant-Governor deprecating "acrimonious discussions" in the corporation. We beseech His Honor to read the last quarterly report of the Health-Officer, and say who gives the provocation.

We have neither time nor space at the fag end of this article to review the work of the Health-Officer, but we will say a few words. The first few months he spent in indicting sensational reports or speculative essays. A great master of words he could depict graphically whatever he touched. But, as the Lieutenant Governor says, "in some of the finest cities in civilized Europe, with every appliance and convenience for sanitary improvement available, there are streets, lanes, and houses whose description, if faithfully given, would throw into the shade the vivid pictures of the filth of Calcutta so graphically drawn by Dr. Payne." Then came the hobby of tank-filling. The Commissioners were not opposed to it—they simply recommended careful enquiry, discrimination, and moderation. They adopted a procedure for action proposed by the Chairman himself, but the Health-Officer deliberately set it at naught, and when he was hauled up for disregarding the Resolution of the Corporation, the Chairman shielded him and the Commissioners accordingly let him off. Since then the work was going on smoothly enough, but the Health-Officer again exceeded his "statutory powers" by serving notices upon proprietors of tanks indiscriminately, requiring them to fill them up within two months, and making them pay for the Police guard in contravention of the law. This the Commissioners were constrained to stop. Then came the Night-soil scheme. He as well as the Chairman did not consult the Commissioners, but launched the scheme on their own responsibility. The residents of the town were put to great inconvenience by the mehters' strike, the Commissioners called a meeting for enquiry, a Special Committee was appointed, and a provisional grant of Rs. 10,000 given. The Chairman with the advice of the Health-Officer organized the Night-soil service on a scale, which has involved the Municipality in a heavy debt, deficit and taxation, and all this was done without consulting the Committee or the Commissioners. After eight months' operations the scheme was laid before the Committee, who then saw the terrible position they were in. They were obliged to reduce the charges and raise the rates of Night-soil fees, which press heavily upon the people, and of which they justly complain. Further, they were compelled to increase the house-rate to cover the deficit. There is then the Bustee question. Nothing has been done to take the bustees in hand save employing a *posse* of sweepers to cleanse the bustees from Night-soil fees, though those fees were taken for a special work, and though the clearance of their lands was a private obligation of the owners under the law. No definite plan of tank-filling such as has been suggested by the Lieutenant-Governor has been determined upon. The Engineer reports, "that deducting public tanks and others which have been filled up, there remain at present, say 1,000 tanks, whose aggregate capacity, allowing for their sloped sides, would not be less than 500 lacs of cubic feet, equal to a canal cutting about 19 miles long 6 feet deep and over 80 feet wide, or to a river embankment 70 miles and 7 feet high." He continues: "During the first-half of 1876, 5,833 waggon loads were conveyed to the lakes, but there was tank filling going on at the same time, so that the total quantity of refuse in waggon loads should be taken at about 6,600 for the half-year. If the whole 1,000 tanks had to be filled in, the operation at this rate would absorb 500 months, or, nearly 42 years' supply of refuse. It would take probably a whole generation to fill even half of them as we must not lose sight of the filthy holes and hollows, not called tanks and the ditches as far as sewered, which must also be filled up." And because the Commissioners seeing these difficulties counselled discrimination and moderation, they are charged by the Health-Officer "with open and covert antagonism." It is time for the Commissioners to consider whether *they should allow* the Health-Officer to abuse them in this fashion. Fever was the predominant disease in the town during the last quarter; the Health-Officer dismisses this subject with four and a half lines, and devotes the rest of his report to a criticism of the proceedings of the Commissioners, and to personal abuse of some of their body. If this is the function of the Health-Officer, we must confess that the Commissioners have a hard time of it—aye, they have not only to swallow the abuse but also to pay their calumniator.

ET TU BRUTE?

EVEN the *Statesman*, to which we always give credit for right feeling, freedom from race-prejudice, and desire for even-handed justice, cannot sometimes bear the criticisms of the Native Press. It is angry with us because we support the Government Resolution on Dr. Woodford's case, but in replying to him we will not follow his example and allow our temper to get the better of our judgment, though the terms in which he has chosen to speak of our "educated countrymen," who compose the staff of Assistant Surgeons in the Campbell Medical Hospital, may provoke the most angelic temper. He says, "the very form in which our native contemporaries themselves present the charge, shew that even *they* acquit Dr. Woodford of any complicity in these frauds; and that it is their own "educated" countrymen, distinguished men, Bahadoors, and we know not what else, who have brought this disgrace and ruin upon the English Principal of their College." Our contemporary is quite right in saying that we do not accuse Dr. Woodford of personal dishonesty or participation in the frauds brought to light; far from it; but where is the proof that "our educated countrymen, distinguished men, Bahadoors," have been *participes criminis*? Instead of giving a single proof, one iota of fact, the writer indulges in this wholesale denunciation:

It would better, therefore, have become *them*, to have been silent, from a sense of shame. Does it really become *them* to insist with eagerness, that these disgraceful charges are true; when if they *are* true, it is "educated" men of their own race, and distinguished men, who have brought this shame upon Dr. Woodford. Another fact that should have kept them silent, is the fact that they know very well that these native professors and teachers, and assistant surgeons, were not trained by Dr. Woodford, but were men of standing in the Medical College long before they joined Dr. Woodford's Hospital at all. If then he has reposed a confidence in them that they have betrayed, the very gentleness with which he ruled them, should fill every native mind with indignation against the men who have thus rewarded his generous trust in them. The readiness with which our native contemporaries have taken up these charges against Dr Woodford, is most repulsive to us, from what it betrays. Instead of repelling the imputation against their "educated" countrymen—for it is against them that the charge really lies—they positively take *their* corruption as so much a matter of course that it is not worth talking about, or even referring to at all. If Dr. Woodford had a better opinion of his staff than our contemporaries have, so much the worse for *him*. We should like to make these journals feel the unworthiness of their attitude, if we could. If these charges are true the men to hang down their heads are not we Englishmen, but you "educated" natives, the out-turn of our schools and universities. You are indignant when Englishmen insist that you want moral fitness for the posts to which you aspire: while you take it for granted, that the distinguished staff of native professors and teachers under Dr. Woodford, are a pack of swindlers? For ourselves, *we* altogether disbelieve these charges against the native staff, and shall regret deeply if they are found to be true. We do not think that the Government itself, really *believes* them to be true. The fact that it has made no change in the staff, shews that the police established nothing against them and that it is suspicion only that lies upon them. The Government has removed Dr. Woodford, because it suspects that his native staff was dishonest. It is a suspicion only, while our native contemporaries emphatically endorse it at once as true, and approve heartily of Dr. Woodford's removal, because he did not treat his native teachers, as a body of educated rogues, who should have been looked after at every turn. Who then is the true friend to the native: the native journalists, or the English one? We refuse to believe these stories of the "peculations" of Dr. Woodford's staff: perhaps we don't know them so well, as the *Patriot* and *Mirror* do. Is that it? If it is, it is very nice encouragement for us, to demand that the Government should throw open the superior judgships of the country, to the very same class of their countrymen. We feel a little indignant at the promptness with which our native contemporaries assume the very worst concerning the Hospital, for no better reason apparently, than that it brings an English gentlemen to grief; although the disgrace really belongs to their own educated countrymen.

The most rabid anti-native writer could not have penned within such a short compass such foul abuse of "educated natives" as this friend of the natives has done; on the principle that Homer sometimes nods we will continue to regard and respect him as a native friend notwithstanding this temporary alienation. But we appeal to Phillip Sober to produce facts in support of his diatribes. We have not before us the report of the Committee on Dr. Woodford's case nor all the papers connect-

ed with it, but the Resolution is full and exhaustive, and we will quote it chapter and verse to show how unfounded are the ungenerous aspersions of our contemporary. Now, what does the Lieutenant Governor say?

"Before proceeding to examine in detail the course of the expenditure under each head, the Lieutenant-Governor must remark that Dr. Woodford's repudiation of all responsibility for the increase, and his assertion that he was debarred by superior authority from interference with the prescriptions of the different members of the hospital staff, are entirely unsupported, extremely improbable, and are directly opposed to the evidence of the orders which he himself issued to his subordinates. Dr. Woolford cannot produce any document which gives the least colour to such an assertion; and Dr. Buckle is most unlikely to have taken upon himself to give an order which he had no power or authority to give, even if he entertained the opinion which Dr. Woodford attributes to him. In a circular order dated 17th December 1875 he told the "teachers and assistant surgeons" that he feared that little more than one-half of the medicines prescribed and dispensed are received or taken by the sick; and he proceeded to give an order directly affecting the *manner* of prescribing medicines. The very terms in which this order is couched shows the inefficiency of Dr. Woodford's superintendence. His fears were based on "the many complaints made to him on all sides." Thus it appears that many complaints had to be made to him from all quarters before he noticed the matter at all and that when he did notice it he took no steps whatever to ascertain whether the complaints were well-founded or not. Though he feared that a system of wholesale peculation of drugs was going on, and that this might "in a great measure account for the increased rate of mortality," he made no inquiry, but contented himself with accusing the establisment under him of dishonesty. He now, finding himself in the awkward position of having then admitted what he now seeks to deny, most improperly says that he used words of criminal implication for the mere purpose of emphasizing his orders. This statement cannot be accepted, and Dr. Woolford would better have consulted his own reputation if he had never made it."

Now, what does the above prove? The Assistant Surgeons simply prescribed medicines; they did not dispense the drugs; if, as Dr. Woodford stated, there was a peculation of drugs going on, how could "our educated countrymen, distinguished men, Bahadoors," we mean the Assistant Surgeons, be responsible for it? May we ask what was the purport of the circular on which Dr. Woodford relies in his defence, and to which the Lieutenant-Governor refers? Did he not in that circular say that the Assistant Surgeons should as much as possible use certain formularies in prescriptions in order to facilitate the dispensing of medicines? Did he mean by that circular that any peculation of drugs was going on? Again, did not the Assistant Surgeons, when attention was called by the Deputy Surgeon General last year to the heavy indent of medicines for the Campbell Hospital as compared with the consumption of medicines in the Mayo Hospital, express their surprise at the enormous quantity of some of the articles, and more than once call for an enquiry and for a conference with the Mayo Hospital authorities on the subject, and was that enquiry granted? If not, why not? But there is more behind. The Lieutenant-Governor remarks:

The Lieutenant-Governor has hitherto confined himself to an examination of the figures for extras on their own merits. But in addition to the palpable evidence of mal-administration which these figures afford, Mr. Eden has before him positive proof of the falsification of the hospital records. It has been found that the extra diet sheets has been systematically tampered with by the hospital establishment after the sheets have been signed by the assistant surgeons. A large variety of extras have been entered and charged for, although the patients on whose tickets they appear have not received them, and the practice has been allowed to go on without check or control, and establishes beyond all doubt the inference drawn by the Committee that wine, spirits, and other extras were not consumed by the patients. As an example of the extent to which these frauds on Government have been carried on, it will be enough to quote the following list of the false entries in the diet sheets for the one month of July 1877: the diet sheets of other months show that these false entries were a regular part of a system of peculation on the part of the subordinate establishment:—

List of Diet Sheets in which false entries have been made in the month of July 1877.

Diet sheet number.	
	Female Ward.
362	Brandy entries, all false.
365	Rum, fish, and tael, all false.
366	Port-wine entries, all false.
382	Fish entries, all false.
396	ditto ditto.
397	ditto ditto.
402	ditto ditto.
409	ditto ditto.
420	ditto ditto.
	Second Medical Ward.
58	Rum entries for 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th, all false.
8	Bread and fish entries, all false.
	Second Surgical Ward.
160	Two ounces of port-wine ordered changed to four ounces for one day.
	First Surgical Ward.
321	Brandy and fish entries, all false.
315	Rum entries, all false.
309	ditto ditto.
312	Port wine entries, all false.
313	Rum entries, all false.
	Temporary Hospital Shed.
259	Hidwa one chittack changed to two chittacks.
253	On 6th one ounce of rum ordered, false entry.

Now, whence came the falsification of the records? Were the Assistant Surgeons responsible for it? Who had charge of the diet sheets and who paid the contractors? If there were falsification of records and frauds, with what fairness could the Assistant Surgeons, whose duty it was simply to prescribe medicines and order diets, but not to dispense drugs or provide diet or to superintend either, be charged with a participation in these crimes? If there had been a tittle of evidence against them, would the Committee of Enquiry or the Government have spared them? If the diet-sheets had been altered, was it done with their knowledge? Did not the Assistant Surgeons themselves point out the false entries? The *Statesman* says, "*we* altogether disbelieve these charges against the native staff," and yet he makes his readers believe that *we* endorse these charges, and on this assumption hangs a wholesale tirade against "our educated countrymen, distinguished men, Bahadoors." How kind! how generous! When we read the above diatribe we could hardly believe that we were reading the columns of that frank and sincere friend of the natives, which we still take the *Statesman* to be. We can appreciate the chivalrous zeal of our contemporary in Dr. Woolford's cause; let him by all means say what can fairly be said in his favour, though that is not much, for with all his ingenuity and earnestness he cannot make black white, so far as the unhappy doctor's carelessness and inefficiency are concerned, but why wantonly attack a body of men, whose mouths are sealed by official etiquette? Dr. Woolford has suffered because he must have trusted some other subordinates, not the Assistant Surgeons, too well but not wisely.

KIELHORN'S MAHABHASHYA.

At once the most ancient and the most detailed work on Grammar, is the *Ashtadhyayi* of Panini. It was composed when even the epos of Homer had not been sung; and in the whole range of ancient grammars there is not a single work in any classic language which could be compared with it, either for fullness, or for philological acumen. Written, however, in the aphoristic style of the Hindus, it was, in course of time, found to be difficult of comprehension, and a commentary became a necessity. This was first supplied by the *Kasika*, and next by the *Vyakarana Mahabhashya* of Patanjali, in the second century before the Christian Era. The epithet *Maha* or "the great" was never applied to any grammatical work in any language with greater propriety than to the last; it is a store-house of philological learning and etymological analyses of which the Hindu nation may well be proud. Its bulk and its subject, however, were alike against its being widely read. Abridgments and easier treatises sufficed for the needs of the ordinary scholar; and the great work, though looked upon with reverence and awe, was rarely opened. Enthusiasts in the North-Western Provinces and the Marhatta country occasionally consulted or read it; but in Bengal it existed only in name. It was not remarkable, therefore, that four and twenty years ago MSS. of it were exceedingly scarce, and no complete one available in Calcutta. In 1848 Dr. Ballantyne undertook to supply the want by sending to press, under the auspices of the North-West Government, an elaborate edition of the Text with the two best known glosses of Kaiyata and Nagoji Bhatta and an English translation; and a folio volume was brought out in 1855 extending to 847 pages; but it contained only the first nine sections of the first quarter of the First Book. At that rate eight such volumes would have completed the whole; but the editor had other large works on hand, and the consequent division of attention and his subsequent departure to England, put a stop to the undertaking. In 1867, the late Dr. Goldstucker undertook a photo-lithographic facsimile edition of a rare codex of the text, but died before he completed it. The India House authorities, at whose expense it had been undertaken, gave the job to somebody else, and it was completed. But it cost an enormous sum, somewhere over 60,000 Rs. for an edition of 200 copies, and for the ordinary run of scholars it was even more inaccessible than MSS. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales brought with him, for presentation in India, a few copies, magnificently bound; but they never fell in the way of any native scholar. About the time when Goldstucker took up his edition, two Pandits of Benares commenced printing a lithographic edition; but, as natives, they could get no Government aid, and, themselves poor, had to content themselves with such paper and printing as were the cheapest. The result was an ungainly uninviting book, quite as difficult to use as a MS. It sold, however, freely, and in three years the edition was exhausted, leaving ample demand for a well-printed and well-collated type edition. This is now about to be supplied. At the suggestion of Dr. F. Kielhorn, the accomplished Professor of Oriental Languages, Deccan College, the Department of Public Instruction at Bombay has undertaken to print the work, and the first fasciculus of this edition has just appeared. It extends to 200 pages rl. 8vo. comprising a little over the first quarter of the first book, printed in good clear type, on excellent paper, and edited by Dr. Kielhorn himself, whose name is a sufficient voucher that the work has been well done. Twenty such fasciculi will, we believe, complete the work, and we wish the learned editor God speed in his noble undertaking. Sanskrit scholarship amongst Europeans in India is now rare; the few who profess to a knowledge of the language are men most of whom have acquired their reputation by translating, while going through their pupilage by their pandits, miscellaneous scraps of poetry or thrice translated dramas; but Dr. Kielhorn is not one of them. He is the only European scholar in this country who has made a thorough study of Panini's grammar, and is in every way well qualified, by his vast learning, untiring energy, and unswerving devotion, to do justice to the task.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

It affords us great pleasure to be able to announce that His Excellency the Viceroy has been graciously pleased to allow his name to head the list of Patrons of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science. We hope the distinguished patronage of His Excellency the Viceroy will give a fresh impetus to the exertions of the Association.

We understand that the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal has applied to the Government of India for permission to nominate the minor brother of the Maharaja of Durbhanga to the Covenanted Civil Service.

We hear that Mr. Saunders, Chief Commissioner of Mysore, in consequence of his recent domestic affliction has sent in an application to resign the service. It is probable that Mr. Aitchison will be appointed to succeed him.

The coming vacancies in the High Court will be filled up by Mr. Prinsep and Mr. Tottenham, the former succeeding Mr. Birch and the latter succeeding Mr. Morris.

We are requested to announce that the Hindu Mela will open on the 7th proximo. It will be held for five days; Sunday the 10th idem will be the grand day of the Mela.

The principle of temporary promotion is recognized in the Covenanted Civil Service, but it is not extended to the Uncovenanted Service. There is perhaps greater block in promotion in the Uncovenanted Service than in the Covenanted Service, but who is there to listen to the cries of the former? We are glad to notice that Mr. Eden has made a move in this direction. The last *Calcutta Gazette* notifies the temporary promotion of Babu Kallynath Dey, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Tipperah, to the

sixth grade of the Subordinate Executive Service. We hope this principle will be extended to the Uncovenanted Service generally. Surely what is sauce for the Covenanted Service is sauce for the Uncovenanted Service.

WE ARE glad to learn from a telegram published in another column that the Secretary of State has resolved to appoint a Famine Commission. Reuter does not say whether the Commission will sit in India or in England, whether it will consist of Indian officers only or also of independent Englishmen, whether its function will be simply to investigate the causes of famines in India and to devise measures for the prevention thereof, or also to enquire into the administration of famine relief during the past year. These points cannot be cleared up until we receive the despatch of the Secretary of State. In the meantime we are of opinion that if the Commission be constituted in India, one or two experienced native gentlemen ought to be associated with it.

LORD BEACONSFIELD seems to be in earnest about the Russo-Turkish War. He has asked for increased grant for Army and Navy estimates, and ordered the Mediterranean Squadron to enter the Dardanelles. This demonstration, it would seem, has had effect, for according to the latest telegrams the Czar has proposed the terms of peace to the Porte. In the meantime there has been a defection in Lord Beaconsfield's camp. Lord Derby the Foreign Secretary and Lord Carnarvon the Colonial Secretary have resigned. It had been rumoured before that there was no harmony between Lord Salisbury and Lord Beaconsfield, but the Indian Secretary shews no sign of desertion.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE with thanks the receipt of a copy of the Registration Manual issued by Messrs. Wyman & Co. It contains the Registration Act, No. III. of 1877, with notes and decisions of the Privy Council, and several High Courts in India, up to date; the Rules framed for Registration, the Table of Fees, the Circular Orders, a list of Districts and Sub-Districts in Bengal, N. W. Provinces, Punjab and the Central Provinces: to which is added, as an appendix, the Stamp Act annotated, with a full index. This book has a melancholy interest for us. It is the last relic of the literary labours of the late Babu Kamalakant Sen, whose untimely death it was our mournful duty to record three months ago. The book affords ample evidence of the labour and research of the lamented deceased. The notes are appropriate, correct and copious. We commend the compilation to the profession as well as to the general public.

ENFEEBLED in health, the Venerable the Archbishop Steins, a really good and pious man, is about to leave these shores. The head of the Roman Catholic community in India, his life was one of unselfish devotion to the cause to which it was dedicated, and overflowing charity to all. Possessed of a warm and generous heart, beating in unison with all that was good and righteous, he was always ready to lift his voice for the cause of the poor and helpless, without distinction of color, caste or creed. The departure of such a man from this country is a loss to the community at large. In bidding him adieu we wish him speedy renovation of health, happpiness and prosperity.

WE ARE credibly informed that a scheme has been sketched and is now under the consideration of the Government of India, for the constitution of a Native Civil Service very much on lines laid down by His Excellency the Viceroy last year in his speeches at the Imperial Assemblage and convocation of the Calcutta University. We understand that a certain percentage of the posts now held by the Covenanted Civil Service as well as a certain number of important posts hitherto held by uncovenanted officers shall be reserved for the new service, the status of which will be assimilated to that of the present Covenanted Civil Service of India. We hope the despatch of the Viceroy on the subject will be soon made public.

IT HAS BEEN brought to our notice that one Nagendranath Mullick, a student of the Hindu School, appeared at the last Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, and was passed by the examiners in the 3rd division. His name subsequently appeared in the lists published in the *Indian Mirror* and the *Education Gazette*; but when the copy was prepared for the *Calcutta Gazette* it was replaced by the name of another who had not been passed by the Examiners. We do not know how this has occured, but, having seen copies of correspondence on the subject, we think it our duty to call the attention of the Syndicate to it.

APROPOS of our article on "the New Scheme of University Education," we quote the following from Mr. C. H. Tawney's lecture on "the Desirability of introducing Latin and Greek into Indian Universities:"

> Physical Science I hold and have ever held to be of all branches of study the most important for your well-being at present. The subject has been so well argued lately, and put before you in such various lights, that it is hardly necessary for me to state my reasons for this belief. I will merely say that Physical Science is in my opinion far superior to Pure Mathematics as a training for the real work of life. As I never could understand any mathematical book except Mr. Phear's Hydrostatics, I am perhaps scarcely fitted to pronounce on this point. But it does seem to me that the problems which present themselves for solution in our every day life, are to be solved much more by the method of Faraday than by that of Euclid. Again Physical Science has such an obvious bearing upon Technology, and all those arts and pursuits which conduce to Material Progress, that any nation which neglects it must expect to be left behind in the race of civilization.

We must add, however, that, looking to the fact of Mr. Tawney's having signed the report on which we commented last week, it would seem that he has changed his opinion since the date of his lecture, and now thinks that a poridge of Webb & Co's "Pips" seasoned with a handful of "Analytical Geometry" is all that is needed for the "well-being" and "Material Progress" of the people of India.

THE STATESMAN seems to doubt that decrees upon mortgage are excluded from the scope of section 326 of the new Civil Procedure Code. If our contemporary will carefully read the Collector clauses of the new Act as they are called, we dare say he will agree with us. In the first place section 320 gives power to the local Government to define a local area within which a decree, in execution of which immovable property is to be sold, may be executed by the Collector, and to prescribe rules for the same. Section 321 lays down the method for the execution of decrees by the Collector. Section 322 declares that the power of the Collector shall be exercised only in cases of decrees for money debt. Section 323 prescribes the procedure for the Collector. Section 324 gives power of sale to the Collector. Section 325 requires the Collector to report the sale to the Court. Section 326 says when the Court may authorize the Collector to stay public sale of land, though a notification under section 320 has not been issued by the local Government. And section 327 gives power to the local Government to frame rules as to sales of land in execution of decrees for money in certain cases. Now the question for solution is, whether in the execution of decrees in suits in which money is secured by the mortgage of immoveable property, the Collector can call upon the Civil Court under section 326 to stay the execution by sale of the mortgaged property, and take over the same under his own management with a view to liquidate within a reasonable time the amount of the decree from the income of the property. The latter end of this section prescribes that in giving effect to it, the Collector is to be governed by the provisions of sections 322 to 325. The first of those sections as we have said above prescribes that it is only in the case of money decree, that is decree not covered by the mortgage of immoveable property, as explained by the framer of the law himself, the Collector, when the execution of the decree is transferred to him, is to pay the decree-holder by instalments within a reasonable time not exceeding 20 years. But as section 326 unlike section 320 does not empower the Collectors to pay off the amount of the decree by sale of immoveable property mortgaged, but only by a judicious management of the same, the section in question cannot *ipso facto* apply to decrees covered by mortgage of immoveable property, inasmuch as such decrees must be satisfied by sale of the mortgaged property. Reading section 326 with section 322 in the light of Sir Arthur Hobhouse's speech it is we hold as clear as the noon-day sun, that the execution of decrees upon specified contracts such as mortgage do not come within the purview of the Act. There is in our opinion on the point, hardly any room for difference of opinion, and we are satisfied that if our contemporary will see it with his own eyes and not through the spectacles of others he will see it as clearly as we do.

WE HOPE the Famine Committees will not hastily get rid of the money in their hands. There is still enough distress in the country, which demands relief. In their last weekly report the Madras Famine Committee state that "a re-action seems to have occurred in the famine districts, and the pinch of distress is being again felt with great severity. Imports having long ago ceased, and only a small quantity of home-grown grain being yet available for sale, prices of food are very high, and the pressure upon the poor is consequently very great." The Rev. J. E. Chandler, Honorary Secretary of the Palni Committee, writing on the 13th instant, says: 'With rice at 5½ measures the rupee, and raggi at 10, the condition of the poor people is nevertheless much improved. Still there are thousands who have no means of obtaining the small pittance required to sustain life except by the money dole of one anna a day given from your fund." Cashmere is threatened with a famine, distress is reported from Ulwar, and considerable suffering prevails in Oudh and in the Chilka lake tracts in Orissa. There is thus great need for money, and we hope the funds in the hands of the Famine Committees will be carefully administered.

MOFUSSIL.

OPENING OF THE NORTHERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

Speech of the Lieutenant Governor.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor spoke as follows:—I have to return my sincere thanks to Major Lindsay for the kind manner in which he has proposed my health, and to you, gentlemen, for the manner in which you have received his toast. I do not know who is placed in the most uncomfortable position on occasions such as this, the proposer or the subject of the toast. On the one hand, as we do not live in the palace of Truth, the proposer of such a toast cannot do otherwise than support it with remarks of a complimentary character, whatever he may feel; and on the other hand the recipient of the honor must feel that this is so, and while fully conscious that he does not deserve all the kind things that are said of him, he must be painfully aware that there are many amongst the audience who share his doubts.

Now I am far from saying that my friend, Major Lindsay, has said a word more than he feels; but I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that his words are attributable to the kind and hospitable feelings inseparable from the position which he occupies to day.

From the very nature of things, the head of a Government like that of Bengal cannot please every one; and I have been long enough connected with Government to know how futile it is to expect to do anything of the sort. The difficulty is the same whether it be considered from a public or personal point of view. A certain set of men advocate with all their energies certain measures; as surely another set look upon these measures as fraught with danger to the State and what seem to be important interests. Whatever view the head of the Government takes, the advocates of the other view are forced to the conclusion that he is perverse and foolish, and he is lucky if he escapes being accused of the worst motives. In the same way as to personal questions. Whenever any appointment becomes vacant, there are at least three or four men, who not only themselves think that they are the only persons qualified to fill it, but have probably persuaded a circle of admiring friends to believe this almost as vividly as they do themselves. Now obviously only one man can be selected for a vacant appointment, and if A is that man, B, C, D, and many other letters of the alphabet, being the friends of either the one or the other, stand aghast at the wrong that has been done. I do not say this in a spirit of complaint; it is a natural and to some extent a healthy state of things; it keeps Government informed of every thing that is to be said on every subject of interest, and is a wholesome check on abuse of authority. I merely mention it as a reason why universal popularity is a thing which cannot even be aimed at by a wise man, and as a reason why, when one hears pleasant things said, such as have been said to-day, one is disposed to attach to them a great value.

Inspired by the surroundings of the day, I may say that the local Government is very much in the position of a locomotive engine, and the duties of the Lieutenant-Governor are very much those of the driver. He cannot run the great engine of which he has charge in accordance with his personal idiosyncracies to the right or to the left. He has been wisely bound down to certain lines, and the most that he can do is to push on to make up lost time, or slaken speed as the emergencies of the case may require. He has to rely for the

safety of his charge on the alertness and promptness of the establishment working the line, and in this I, speaking of myself as a driver, am singularly fortunate. And after all we cannot, having regard to the nature of the country through which we have to run, look for very great speed or remarkable results. I shall be happy to have carried my train through at the end of my period of service, without any very serious accident having in the meantime faithfully carried all the traffic entrusted to me, without a block. Like the Northern Bengal Railway, I do not go in for ornamental station express trains, or general sensation. I feel that the charge entrusted to me is too important to justify me in sacrificing its safety for showy effect; and this brings me to a proposal which I now have to make to you. I have obtained from my friend, the Chairman, the permission to propose to you in my turn a toast, and I am sure that it is one at all events as regards which there can be no division of opinion. The toast I have to propose to you is the Chief Engineer and Staff of the Northern Bengal State Railway.

Gentlemen, it seems to me difficult to imagine any satisfaction much greater than that of an engineer, situated as the engineers of this line are to-day, feeling as they must that they have satisfactorily completed a work such as the N. B. Railway, which brings to outlying districts hitherto cut off from markets, and intercourse with the more civilized parts of the country, easy access to the centres of trade and civilization. I believe that this line will confer the greatest benefit upon the people of Rangpur, Dinajpur and Kuch Behar. It passes through one of the richest tracts of a rich province, and will enable the agricultural classes to reap the benefits of the high prices of the ports of shipment, from which they have hitherto been excluded for a great portion of the year. It brings at the same time the wearied and exhausted citizen of Calcutta within a day's journey of what we have no hesitation in saying is the finest scenery and almost the purest air in the world. It brings the rapidly developing tea interests of Darjiling and the Dwars into direct communication with the ports of export; and its Rungpur branch, extended as I hope it will be to the Teesta, will convey the labourers so essential to Assam in one day to a good road over which they can march in three days to the valley of Assam. I hope to have a road shortly constructed from Dulhi to Rungpur, which will, if the planters of Assam insist upon the Companies running quick despatch steamers up and down the valley, place them within easy reach of Calcutta. I even hope that the time may come when the wildest dreams of my sanguine friend, Mr. Edgar, may be fulfilled, and that we may see this line carrying the cotton goods, metals and salt of Europe, and the indigo, tobacco and tea of India, to be exchanged with the gold dust and wool of Thibet and the silks of China. I even hope that his dreams of social intercourse with Lhassa may be so fully realised that we may have some day the honor of carrying the Grand Llama to exchange religious views with the Bishop of Calcutta; but that will not be in our time possible. But the results which we may expect in our time and which we know will be fulfilled, will be such as to justify the pride which I hope the engineering staff of this line feel in connection with their work.

But we must remember that though to day is to them a day of triumph, it has not always been so. They have had many troubles, anxieties and disappointments to face. Sudden outbreaks of epidemic disease scaring away their labourers in the middle of the very short season to which the works are necessarily confined, wells that would not sink, girders that would not arrive and all those difficulties which at once suggest themselves to the remembrance of all who have had work of the kind to do in India. In the case of one bridge, the difficulties were so great that the rivetters actually abandoned their work on the ground that the protective diety of the river over which the bridge is to pass, was determined that the work should not be carried out, and it was only by a great sacrifice of goats and other offerings that the energetic contractor could induce the men to resume their work. These troubles have however been manfully faced and met, and to-day I hope the Engineers have their reward in success. At any rate I feel sure that if the approval and satisfaction of those who have come to-day to see the results of their work is any reward or satisfaction, they have that to the uttermost.

I do not intend to do what is often done on these occasions, and tell you that this is the most difficult and important work ever undertaken, and that it has been completed by almost superhuman efforts. But I do tell you that it is a good honest work, faithfully and honestly performed.

Though the work was ordered to be commenced as a famine work suddenly and without preparation in 1873, the real business of construction did not commence till the season 1874-75. The country through which much of the line passes is so wet that the working season only lasts 4 months. The bridging of the line over a space of 112 miles was completed in one season. The section on the first 52 miles to the North of the Ganges has been carried out by Messrs. Burn & Co. The section contains 140 lineal feet of water way per mile, and over 101 million cubic feet of earth. I am glad to have an opportunity in the presence of the local agent of Messrs. Burn & Co., to express the approbation of Government with the manner in which the work of that firm has been carried out. The total length of the line which is now ready for opening, with the exception of a short section on the Rungpur Branch, is 210 miles. The line, as finished, is capable of conveying trains at any speed, but it is not our intention to run fast express trains. We wish to run our traffic at a moderate and cheap rate. The cost of the line has been £7,400 per mile, or will be when completed, and we must not expect the luxuries of fast travelling and such luxurious stations as on lines which have been costing double the price. There are advocates for still cheaper and much slower lines. I however have doubts whether such lines are economical in the end in a populous country like Bengal though possibly they are adapted to the wilds of America where they have to create and develop the industries which will provide them with traffic. We must always be prepared for a large traffic as soon as we open, and if our lines are laid too cheap we shall soon be driven to relay them.

Gentlemen, I have seen complaints that we must fail because we are attempting to construct and work lines with Military Engineers only, and refuse to avail ourselves of the trained service of Civil Engineers. I believe that if put to it, Military Engineers are able to hold their own in any professional work entrusted to them, but it happens that there is only one Military Engineer on the line, the Chief Engineer, whose abilities and merits I am sure no one will question.

The greater part of the work of construction has been carried out by two Civil Engineers trained in the East India Railway, and our traffic manager and Locomotive Superintendent have been brought up in the same school. These criticisms, therefore, which I have observed in the press with regret, are not based on fact.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I have to propose to you the health of the Chief Engineer, Major Lindsay, and I am sure that I should not be meeting the wishes of the staff who have worked under him if I did not couple with his name that of Mrs. Lindsay who has joined with him in showing to the members of the Staff that kindness and care and consideration which I know are so much appreciated by the younger members especially of the staff. In Major Lindsay, they have found a kind and courteous chief, a wise adviser and a real friend, and in Mrs. Lindsay they have found one who has been able to supplement the courtesies of her husband and his acts of friendship as only a woman, and such a woman knows how to do.

Then I must be permitted to mention the name of my old friend Mr. Vigors. I may say my old friend for we came out to the country in the same ship 26 years ago, and delighted as I am to meet him here and feel that I have his services to rely upon. I cannot help regretting that he still is compelled to work on at the trying labor of railway construction. To him and to Messrs. Carter, Reynolds and Hawkes the main credit is due of having superintended the carrying out of the Engineer-in-chief's orders.

The Engineers speak in the highest terms of the conduct of their staff; there seem to be harmony and good will throughout the line which indicate mutual confidence between the upper and lower grades of Engineers, and I am sure that the staff of this line will take care that the working compares favourably with that of any other line in India.

I feel that I shall not meet the wishes of the party who accompanied us to-day if I sit down without expressing our thanks to Mr. Prestage, the energetic agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway for the courteous manner in which he placed a special train at our disposal, and for the admirable manner in which we were brought over the sister line.

Gentlemen, I propose to you the health of the Engineer-in-chief and the staff of the Northern Bengal State Railway, and ask you to drink success to the line.

Major Lindsay's speech.

Major Lindsay in reply, spoke as follows:—Your Honor Ladies and Gentlemen,—I trust that you will acquit me of using a merely conventional phrase when I confess to feeling some emotion on the present occasion. The work, the inauguration of which you have been good enough to attend, whether it be ill or well done, has at any rate occupied six of the best years of my life. I have heard with pleasure His Honor's very kind and flattering remarks on the manner in, which the work entrusted to the staff of this railway has been carried out. It is very gratifying for us to learn that our efforts to do our duty have been appreciated by a Lieutenant Governor who knows the difficulties that have met us, one whose judgment is respected throughout India, and who is known to praise only where praise is due. It would be affectation on my part, and unjust to the staff of this railway were I to deprecate His Honor's flattering remarks on the execution of the work I have had the honor and pleasure of direction; on the contrary, I can vouch for the zeal, ability and complete devotion to work which has animated the members of the staff.

It is now six years ago since the construction of this line of railway was seriously contemplated by the Government of India, and trial surveys were begun under Colonel Drummond. Three months later I succeeded him, and I am glad to say that every member of the original survey party has remained to see the completion of the line. They were all strangers to me and represented almost every line in India. The senior men were older than myself and of greater practical experience in engineering, but from beginning to end they have aided me with the most loyal devotion, often when the difficulties which beset us were disheartening to a degree. That measure of success which has attended the construction of this railway must be attributed to my companions, Messrs, Carter, Vigors, Reynolds and Hawkes with their assistants. To their unremitting toil and devotion to their work, I bear grateful and personal testimony.

On the railway there is no grand or impressing work, no lengthy tunnel or bridge miles in length; the longest bridge is barely 1,000 feet long, and the greatest clear span is 150 feet. On the other hand, there is an unusually large amount of earth work and bridging, much hidden protective work which does not now meet the eye. The great mass of earth work and brick work that had to be completed was not the only difficulty that met us: there were two essentially great ones, the extreme unhealthiness of the country for six months in the year, and the shortness of the working season. Brother engineers will understand how trying it has been to have labourers struck down in hundreds and hundreds from fever, work actually stopt, and the engineering staff of all grades suffering. The shortness of the working season was another trouble. You have noticed to-day the miles of swamp the line runs through, and how the water is even now lying over the country. On some portion of the line we had barely four months in the year to work in. I remember when I first came to Calcutta to join the party surveying this line, I was told by an eminent and an experienced engineer that the idea of making a line of railway from the Ganges through Northern Bengal was preposterous and moreover quite unnecessary, because of the splendid water communication that existed. Well, of the first objection you can judge for yourselves after to-day's experience; as to the second, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor must hold a strong opinion, as he had to go for miles in a small lunch before he could reach his yacht even from the southern portion of the line; this, too, in the middle of the rainy season. In point of fact, the splendid water communication I was told of is a myth, as I found to my cost, when trying to transport coal, lime, and the many other necessaries of railway construction. As a matter of fact, the navigation of the inland rivers up to Rungpur and Dinajpur is beset with difficulties, and the great staples or products of the country have to be locked up in warehouses for months each year. Yes, there can be no doubt that in causing this line of railway to constructed, the Government of India have conferred an immense benefit on some of the richest districts of Bengal. When I recall to mind the many hard and difficult marches I have had about this country, when from a railway carriage I recognize some old halting ground where I have perhaps sat for hours waiting for the broken down carts to come up with food and shelter, I feel satisfied that I have had some part in this work. My friend, Mr. Moulsworth, can perhaps recall to mind a match or two when Mark Tapley's qualifications were sorely needed; he may also remember a certain light breakfast on parched rice. That reminds me that the place where we made the most disastrous march on that occasion was the Baraloe river. The bridge over that stream has from first to last given more trouble than any other work on the line; the wells were up to every trick that ill-conditioned wells are up to (and they are many); at times they declined to move at all for weeks, then went down suddenly and unexpectedly to the danger of the workmen. Last week some of the rivetters refused to work on the bridge; they said there was a devil in it. Poor people, I don't wonder. I am sure, I have often thought the devil was in it. It was only by sacrificing kids and by using all his powers of persuation that Mr. Chamber propitiated the Baraloe shaitan.

The Baraloe bridge has been our Plevna, an uncommonly hard nut to crack. The heaviest part of the work on this line has been carried out by a firm of contractors who have had great difficulties to contend with, but who have most honorably kept to their engagement and that under circumstances which would have induced some contractors to abandon the works. They have not only completed it, but from first to last have done it most thoroughly well. Whatever the financial results may have been, Messrs. Burn and Co. have on this line earned a name which ought to be of value to them. There was no legal contract, Burn and Co. simply engaged to do the work, and they have done it. When I say that the resident partners of the firm were Messrs. Chambers and Deas, those who have the honor of their acquaintance will not be surprised at the result. I must not omit to say that the very heavy work on the short length south of the Ganges has been very satisfactorily done by Messrs. Mitchell and Co.

While I am naming those who have been most prominent in the construction of this railway, I must not omit to mention the services of the Junior engineers, I mean particularly the assistant engineers from Cooper's Hill. I take this public opportunity of stating my opinion of these young men, because I have from time to time seen vulgar and, as far as my experience goes, most unjust abuse of them in the newspapers. We may have been exceptionally fortunate in the contingent from Coopers Hills that have joined this line, but I emphatically state, and I am sure that the senior Engineer will bear me out, that a better, abler, and more gentlemanly set of men could not have been sent us. I have been amazed at the rapidity with which they buckled to their work, considering how strange it must all be to young men just arrived from England. Neither must I forget to mention the good service done by the many excellent subordinates now on this line. They have had to bear up against all the sickness and discomforts of country life in Bengal.

When I reflect on the changes that this line of railway will effect and on the contrast between the old and the new style of travelling, I am reminded of a passage from Macaulay's History of England which every railway engineer should have printed and framed to encourage him when overburdened or disheartened by work. The passage is as follows;—"Of all inventions, alphabate and printing press alone excepted, those inventions which abridge distance have done most for the civilization of our species. Every improvement of the means of locomotion benefits mankind morally and intellectually, as well as materially, and not only facilitates the interchange of the various productions of nature and art, but tends to remove national and provincial antipathies and to bind together all the branches of the great human family." That is a passage the truth of which I fancy few will deny, and should always prove an incentive to further exertion to a railway engineer. I think, gentlemen, that the public in general know but little of a railway engineer's life and the difficulties which beset it. The isolation for years in wild and out-of-the-way spots, the absence of all the more civilized amenities of life, and often the actual difficulty of procuring the mere necessaries of life, can hardly be realized by those who have not had the experience. There are other trials still harder to bear, which are aggravated by absence from society. A traveller, as he reads his morning paper and passes safely and swiftly on his journey, may have his glance attracted by something white. What is it? nothing, only a grave, a grave near the railway bank. A grave perhaps where two sad figures have stood side by side alone in their sorrow, no mourning coaches or hired signs of grief, only those two by the small grave near the railway bank. A white mark, it is passed in a moment; resume your paper, my traveller, and at the end of your 300 mile journey grumble because you are half an hour late, or there are not sufficient hat pegs in the carriage. But I have fallen into a melancholy vein which is not appropriate on the present occasion.

There is a vulgar but expressive phrase to the effect that "life is not all bear and skittles," and we have certainly found this to be absolutely true. At the same time I gladly admit that we have had our quantum of beer and a modicum of skittles Yes in future years, when probably Government have gladly taken the opportunity of the 55 years order to suggest to me the propriety of my returning to the land of my fathers, when I am creeping and wheezing about Bath or Aberdeen, the young men now present, then high in the service I hope, will recall many a mad gallop after the wild boar, and happy hours in the pursuit of tiger or leopards.

Your Honor and Gentleman, I have already detained you too long after so fatiguing a day. I must therefore, on behalf of the staff of this railway, hasten to thank your Honor for the kind manner in which you have mentioned us and the company for the way in which the toast has been drunk.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*January*, 23, 1878.

GENERAL.—The Collector of Pooree is appointed, under Section 48, Act XII of 1875, to be the officer to collect port dues in the Port of Pooree.

Mr. L. R. Tottenham, District and Sessions Judge, Midnapore, who reported his return from furlough on the 9th instant is allowed subsidiary leave for sixteen days from that date, to enable him to rejoin his appointment.

Baboo Shoshi Shikur Dutt, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Furreedpore, is allowed leave for two months, under Section 3, Supplement F, of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. P. Nolan, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dinagepore, is vested with special appellate powers under Section 87 of the Land Registration Act VII (B. C.) of 1876.

The Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State has been pleased to grant an extension of furlough on sick certificate for three months to Mr. W. LeF. Robinson, C.S.

The orders of the 28th November 1877, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 5th December last, transferring Mr. J. C. Lloyd, temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, Khoolna, Jessore, to the district of Hooghly, are cancelled.

The orders of the same date transferring Baboo Lallmohun Shome, temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, from Hooghly to Khoolna, are also cancelled.

The orders of the 4th December 1877, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 5th idem, granting Mr. J. B. Worgan, District and Sessions Judge, Sarun and Chumparun, one month's privilege leave, are cancelled at his own request.

Mr. T. D. Beighten, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the First Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, and is posted to Julpigoree on being relieved of his acting appointment as Deputy Commissioner of that district by Major R. C. Money.

Mr. T. E. Coxhead, Officiating Magistrate and Collector of the Second Grade, is appointed to officiate as Magistrate and Collector of Beerbhoom, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. T. J. C. Grant, or until further orders.

Mr. H. Savage is appointed to have charge of the Raneegunge division of the Burdwan district on being relieved of his present duties as Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Beerbhoom by Mr. T. E. Coxhead.

Mr. R. T. Sevestre, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Raneegunge division of the Burdwan district, is transferred to the Sadder Station of that district.

Baboo Nund Kissore Dass, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Cuttack, is appointed to be Assistant to the Superintendent of the Tributary Mehals, Cuttack, *vice* Baboo Harkissen Dass, deceased.

Mr. Brajendra Nath De, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Durbhunga, is allowed leave for one week, to enable him to attend the High Proficiency examination in Sanskrit to be held in Calcutta in April next.

Mr. J. C. Price, Officiating Settlement Officer, Midnapore, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of that district in addition to his other duties, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. R. H. Wilson, or until further orders.

Babu Jodu Nath Chowdry, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Backergunge, is allowed leave up to 1st February 1878, under Section 3, Supplement F, of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under orders of the 26th November last.

Mr. E. V. Westmacott, C. S., reported his departure from India on furlough on the 9th instant.

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